

Megan Menchaca

meganmenchaca.com | X: @meganmmenchaca | linkedin.com/in/meganmenchaca

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Texas Tribune

K-12 Education Reporter

August 2026 - present

- Report on public education issues facing millions of Texas students and families, including state takeovers of local school districts
- Contribute to coverage of K-12 policies proposed by state lawmakers, the Texas Education Agency and the State Board of Education
- Interview children, parents, district employees and experts about complex statewide education trends and developments

Reporting Fellow

January 2021 - May 2021

Engagement Fellow

August 2019 - May 2020

Houston Chronicle

Senior Education Reporter

April 2025 - August 2026

- Covered the state takeover of Houston ISD, documenting how the Texas Education Agency's appointment of new leaders and the expansion of sweeping reforms affected more than 168,000 students attending the largest public school district in Texas
- Worked frequently with data reporters, including on analysis of state takeovers throughout Texas, Superintendent Mike Miles' yearly calendar and HISD's accelerating enrollment declines at 130 New Education System schools facing controversial structural changes
- Regularly invited to share reporting on local and statewide radio programs, including Houston's local NPR station and Texas Standard
- Served as lead reporter and writer for "Gone Too Soon," a 9,000-word project memorializing victims who died in Kerr County floods
- Part of the team awarded first place by Best of the West, Texas Managing Editors and National Headliner Awards for July 4 flood stories

K-12 Education Reporter

July 2023 - April 2025

- Led reporting on the district's failure to pass \$4.4 billion school bond, the largest bond proposal in state history, in Nov. 2024 election
- Broke stories on the superintendent's evaluation and \$126K bonus, high levels of lead in school drinking water, elimination of several employee stipends, a lack of transparency on the audit committee and the removal of certain International Baccalaureate programs
- Pitched months-long series on HISD's failures to prepare Black and Hispanic students for college or career success, examining inequity in programs for seniors and the district's abuse of individual graduation committees and industry certifications
- Co-authored and produced "The Report Card," a weekly newsletter for thousands of readers about HISD and K-12 education stories

Austin American-Statesman

Higher Education Reporter

August 2021 - July 2023

- Reported multiple breaking news, dailies and enterprise stories a week about the University of Texas at Austin and the UT System
- Served as the paper's sole reporter covering higher education issues and bills in the Texas Legislature, including high-profile proposals to ban diversity, equity and inclusion offices and tenure for professors at public colleges and universities
- Authored a four-part series exploring on-campus housing affordability and campus wages for students and faculty at UT-Austin
- Contributed to the paper's K-12 coverage, including running the paper's daily live blogs during the week of the Uvalde school shooting

The Daily Texan

Managing Editor

August 2020 - December 2020

- Ran the University of Texas' student newspaper with 230+ journalists, where I approved all content and oversaw all non-opinion teams
- Awarded Weekly Newspaper of the Year from the College Media Association for the paper's reporting on COVID-19 pandemic during my tenure
- Previously served as digital director, news editor, social media editor, newsletters editor, associate news editor and senior news reporter

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Journalism and B.A. in Government

Graduation: May 2021

- Completed internships at the Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, Austin American-Statesman and Austin Chronicle