

# MEGAN MENCHACA

meganmenchaca.com | X: @meganmmenchaca | megan.menchaca@houstonchronicle.com

## JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

### Houston Chronicle

Senior Education Reporter

April 2025 - present

- Cover the state takeover of Houston ISD, the largest school district in Texas, with focus on accountability and policy-driven stories
- Published monthslong series on HISD's failures to prepare Black and Hispanic high school students for college, career success
- Co-author and produce "The Report Card," a weekly newsletter for thousands of readers about Houston K-12 education stories
- Regularly share K-12 reporting on local and state radio programs, including Texas Standard, Houston Public Media and KPFT

K-12 Education Reporter

July 2023 - April 2025

- Led reporting on district's failure to pass \$4.4 billion school bond, the largest bond proposal in state history, in November election
- Broke stories on topics like superintendent's \$126K bonus and evaluation, abuse of local graduation committees, the overhaul of HISD's audit committee, district's use of AI to generate reading curricula and state's unexpected removal of four board members
- Honored for "team effort" by Texas Managing Editors for coverage of superintendent's reforms and staff and student departures

Copy Editing Intern

June 2021 - August 2021

### Austin American-Statesman

Higher Education Reporter

August 2021 - July 2023

- Reported breaking news, daily articles and enterprise on higher education, the University of Texas at Austin and UT System
- Covered education bills at the Texas Legislature, including high-profile debates on tenure and removal of certain DEI efforts
- Authored four-part series exploring on-campus housing affordability and campus wages for students and faculty at UT-Austin
- Contributed to K-12 coverage, including reporting on Uvalde school shooting and Austin ISD interim superintendent selection

Digital Intern

February 2019 - May 2019

### The Texas Tribune

Reporting Fellow

January 2021 - May 2021

- Covered statewide politics, public policy, the COVID-19 pandemic and additional political news during the 87th legislative session
- Interviewed lawmakers, experts and other Texans for articles on COVID-19, proposed state legislation and 2021 winter storm
- Shared stories of Texans worried over access to vaccines, relaxed business restrictions and loss of unemployment benefits

Engagement Fellow

August 2019 - May 2020

- Helped manage and produce content for The Texas Tribune's social media accounts, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram
- Created Twitter threads, Instagram stories and other digital posts on several subjects, such as COVID-19, abortion and elections

### The Daily Texan

Managing Editor

August 2020 - December 2020

- Led University of Texas student newspaper with 230+ journalists, where I approved all content and oversaw all non-opinion teams
- Won Weekly Newspaper of the Year from College Media Association, 2nd Best Newspaper from Texas Intercollegiate Press Association
- Previously served as digital director, news editor, social media editor, newsletters editor, associate news editor and senior news reporter

### The Dallas Morning News

Audience Engagement Intern

June 2020 - August 2020

## EDUCATION

### The University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Journalism and B.A. in Government

Graduation: May 2021