

J. Jacob Kirksey

TTU College of Education
3002 18th Street; MS 1071
Lubbock, TX 79409

jacob.kirksey@ttu.edu
Twitter: @jjacobkirksey
[linkedin.com/in/jjacobkirksey](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jjacobkirksey)

Updated May 2026

Current Position

Texas Tech University (TTU)

Associate Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy 2025 – present
Department of Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Counseling
College of Education

Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy 2020 – 2025
Department of Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Counseling
College of Education

Research Affiliations

Texas Tech University (TTU)

Associate Director 2021 – present
Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education
College of Education

Faculty Affiliate 2020 – present
STEM Center for Outreach, Research, and Education (STEM-CORE)
Office of the Provost

University of Texas at Austin

Visiting Scholar-in-Residence 2023 – 2024
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy
College of Education

Education

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Ph.D., Education 2020
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (GGSE)
Dissertation: The Ripple Effects of Immigration Enforcement in K-12

M.A., Education 2016
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (GGSE)

Colorado College

B.A., Economics and Education 2015

Research Grants and Contracts

External Grants (\$18,515,859 Total)

\$300,000 Houston Endowment. 2026. *The Road to Certification: Understanding the Interplay of Candidates' Background, Coursework, and Preparation Program on Successful Entry into the Teaching Profession*. Principal Investigator, with J. A. Freeman (Co-PI) and K. E. Mansell (Co-PI). Prime award administered by US PREP (PI: Sarah Beal).

\$1,500,000 Texas Health and Human Services Commission. 2026. *Return on Investment and Systems Connectivity Evaluation of Family Support Services*. Co-Principal Investigator, with K. E. Mansell (PI), J. Gottlieb (Co-PI), H. Greenhalgh-Spencer (Co-PI), R. Pedersen (Co-PI), G. Childers (Co-PI), and J. Cheon (Co-PI).

\$1,000,000 Texas Workforce Commission. 2026. *The Texas Workforce Commission Rural Initiative*. Co-Principal Investigator, with H. Greenhalgh-Spencer (PI), K. E. Mansell (Co-PI), T. Stevens (Co-PI), J. Lee (Co-PI), G. Childers (Co-PI), J. Cheon (Co-PI), and J. McNaughtan (Co-PI).

\$125,000 Houston Endowment. 2026. *The Road to Certification: Understanding the Interplay of Candidates' Background, Coursework, and Preparation Program on Successful Entry into the Teaching Profession*. Principal Investigator, with J. A. Freeman (Co-PI) and K. E. Mansell (Co-PI). Prime award administered by US PREP (PI: Sarah Beal).

\$1,485,628 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. 2025. *Study of Texas Enactment District Partnerships*. Principal Investigator, with D. McGill (Co-PI) and J. J. Gottlieb (Co-PI).

\$300,000 Greater Texas Foundation. 2025. *Assessing the Impact of Outcomes-Based Funding on Rural Community Colleges: Insights from Texas House Bill 8*. Principal Investigator, with J. A. Freeman (Co-PI).

\$3,292,353 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. 2024. *RP3 Implementation of Pathways Research Support for Field*. Co-Principal Investigator, with C. Landel (PI) and S. Woulfin (Co-PI).

\$298,583 Walton Family Foundation. 2024. *Long-Term Social and Economic Benefits of CTE Courses and Credentials: A Closer Look at Texas*. Principal Investigator, with J. A. Freeman (Co-PI) and A. R. Crevar (Co-PI).

\$7,324,480 Texas Education Agency. 2023. *Teacher Incentive Allotment Evaluation*. Co-Principal Investigator, with H. Greenhalgh-Spencer (PI), J. Lee, M. Strong, S. Shin, J. J. Gottlieb, A. W. Wiseman, G. Childers, R. Hite, K. E. Mansell, and T. Stevens (all Co-PIs).

\$1,806,000 Texas Education Agency. 2023. *MIZ Design and Implementation Certification*. Co-Principal Investigator, with H. Greenhalgh-Spencer (PI), S. Shin, J. Cheon, K. E. Mansell, J. J. Gottlieb, A. W. Wiseman, G. Childers, R. Hite, and T. Stevens (all Co-PIs).

\$186,037 Overdeck Family Foundation. 2024. *Exploring Potential Payoffs: Effect of the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment on Student Attendance and Parent Engagement*. Principal Investigator, with J. J. Gottlieb (Co-PI).

\$499,999 National Science Foundation. 2022. *Investigating Pre-College Predictors and Post-Secondary Effects of Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences in Texas*. Principal Investigator, with J. J. Gottlieb, R. Higgins, L. Johnson, and J. L. Spott (all Co-PIs).

\$10,000 State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO). 2023. *Cost-Benefit*

Analysis of Disability Services in Texas Community Colleges: Enhancing Equity in Transition and Funding. Principal Investigator, with B. Reed (Co-PI).

\$99,579 Communities Foundation of Texas. 2022. *Bold Action for a Prosperous Future: Evaluation of Texas House Bill 5 and Academic and Career Trajectories of Texas Public High School Graduates.* Principal Investigator, with A. W. Wiseman, J. J. Gottlieb, T. Lansford, K. E. Mansell, and A. R. Crevar (all Co-PIs).

\$480,000 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. 2022. *Community College Finance Research Project.* Co-Principal Investigator, with J. J. Gottlieb (PI) and J. McNaughtan (Co-PI). Prime award administered by Texas A&M University (PI: Lori Taylor). Subaward to Texas Tech University: \$42,260.

\$138,000 National Science Foundation. 2017. *Literacy, Numeracy, and Problem Solving: Which Skills are Facilitating STEM Outcomes for Adults with Disabilities?.* Principal Investigator.

\$25,000 American Educational Research Association. 2019. *From Court to Classroom: The Extent of Unexpected Consequences of Deportation Proceedings on Student Achievement.* Principal Investigator. (Declined award.)

\$5,000 National Science Foundation. 2019. *Math Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms: Exploring Changing Practices with a Changing Policy Paradigm.* Principal Investigator.

\$15,000 California Teacher Education Research and Improvement Network. 2018. *Do the University of California's General Education Teacher Candidates Feel Prepared to Teach Students with Learning Disabilities?.* Co-Principal Investigator, with M. A. Gottfried (PI) and E. L. Hutt (Co-PI).

Contracts (\$1,756,143 Total)

\$499,922 Public Impact. 2026. *Evaluation of Opportunity Culture® Expansion in Oklahoma.* Principal Investigator, with J. J. Gottlieb (Co-PI).

\$100,000 Philanthropy Advocates. 2026. *Building Philanthropy Advocates' Statewide Data Capacity for Policy Impact.* Principal Investigator.

\$45,000 Midland Independent School District. 2026. *Midland ISD Opportunity Culture® Evaluation.* Principal Investigator.

\$65,327 Lubbock ISD. 2025. *Teacher Incentive Allotment Growth Models and Scoring.* Principal Investigator.

\$60,000 Texas 2036. 2025. *College, Career, and Military Readiness Indicators Study.* Principal Investigator, with J. A. Freeman (Co-PI).

\$130,186 Teacher Apprenticeships in Texas. 2025. *A Research Agenda to Understand the Design, Implementation, and Impact of Innovative Approaches to Teacher Preparation.* Gottlieb, J. J. (PI), Wiseman, A. W. (Co-PI), Freeman, J. A. (Co-PI), Kirksey, J. J. (Co-PI).

\$47,505 Lubbock ISD. 2025. *Teacher Incentive Allotment Growth Models and Scoring.* Principal Investigator.

\$10,000 Ector County ISD. 2025. *Validation of Principal Incentive Allotment Program.* Principal Investigator.

\$80,000 Solution Tree. 2024. *Exploring the Effectiveness of the PLC at Work Process in Texas*

Schools. Co-Principal Investigator, with K. E. Mansell (PI).

\$10,000 Midland ISD. 2024. *Validation of Principal Incentive Allotment Program*. Principal Investigator.

\$45,243 Lubbock ISD. 2024. *Teacher Incentive Allotment Growth Models*. Principal Investigator.

\$10,000 Ector County ISD. 2024. *Validation of Principal Incentive Allotment Program*. Principal Investigator.

\$20,000 Relay Graduate School of Education. 2024. *Relay Graduate School Evaluation Services*. Co-Principal Investigator, with J. J. Gottlieb (PI).

\$270,000 Ector County ISD. 2021. *REAL Partnership with Ector County ISD*. Co-Principal Investigator, with A. W. Wiseman (PI) and J. J. Gottlieb (Co-PI).

\$90,000 Midland ISD. 2022. *Program Evaluation of Opportunity Culture*. Co-Principal Investigator, with A. W. Wiseman (PI) and J. J. Gottlieb (Co-PI).

\$84,426 Lubbock ISD. 2023. *Texas Tech University Teacher Incentive Allotment Services*. Co-Principal Investigator, with J. J. Gottlieb (PI) and A. W. Wiseman (Co-PI).

\$62,474 Lubbock ISD. 2022. *Evaluation of Teacher Incentive Allotment Assessment Items*. Co-Principal Investigator, with J. J. Gottlieb (PI) and A. W. Wiseman (Co-PI).

\$90,000 Ector County ISD. 2020. *REAL Partnership with Ector County ISD*. Co-Principal Investigator, with A. W. Wiseman (PI) and J. J. Gottlieb (Co-PI).

\$36,060 Lubbock ISD. 2021. *Evaluation of Teacher Incentive Allotment Assessment Items*. Co-Principal Investigator, with J. J. Gottlieb (PI) and A. W. Wiseman (Co-PI).

Publications

IF Indicates 2-Year Impact Factor of journal at time of acceptance

Indicates postdoctoral researcher mentee at time of initial submission

*** Indicates graduate student mentee at time of initial submission

^ Indicates undergraduate student mentee at time of initial submission

Google Scholar Citations: 1501 Google Scholar h-index: 20 Google Scholar i10-index: 32

Refereed Journal Articles

42. Sattin-Bajaj, C., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (In Press). Immigration enforcement as community violence: Understanding the implications of attacks on immigrant families for schools and preparing educators to respond. *Review of Research in Education*. [IF: 2.4]
41. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Gottfried, M. A., Hutt, E. L., & *Mansell, K. E. (In Press). Preparation of preservice teachers to support the inclusion of students with learning disabilities. *The New Educator*. [IF: 1.1]
40. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Gottlieb, J. J. (2026). Virtual pathways: Linking online alternative certification programs to student achievement and teacher attrition in Texas. *Educational Researcher*. 55(3), 186–196. [IF: 4.9]
39. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Gottfried, M. A., Ansari, A., & *Lansford, T. (2026). Missing classmates and attendance patterns in elementary schools. *American Educational Research Journal*. 63(1), 197–222. [IF: 3.6]

38. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2026). Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids the pillar of a community: Student achievement, absenteeism, and mobility following a large worksite enforcement operation in north Texas. *American Behavioral Scientist*. 70(3), 299-321. [IF: 3.2]
37. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). Weeks after the raid: The immediate and sustained changes in student attendance rates following immigration arrests. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. 47(4), 1219-1244. [IF: 2.7]
36. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2025) Future, interrupted: Examining the impact of a large worksite enforcement operation on students' educational and workforce pathways. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*. 11(4), 123-141. [IF: 3.9]
35. Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Woods, C., & #Crevar, A. R. (2025). Catholic schooling and self-discipline: Outcomes for early elementary students. *Early Education and Development*, 36(7), 1730-1745. [IF: 2.2]
34. Edwards, W., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Burden, K., & Miller, A. (2024). Teaching close to home: Exploring new teachers' geographic employment patterns and retention outcomes. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 145, 1-13. [IF: 3.9]
33. Rodriguez, S., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Roth, B., Lopez-Escobar, L., & Kim-Christian, P. (2024). Immigration enforcement effects and the role of school social workers supporting immigrant students. *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR)*, 29(2), 151-176. [IF: 2.1]
32. **Kirksey, J. J.**, *Mansell, K. E., & *Lansford, T. M. (2024). Literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving skills of adults with disabilities in STEM fields. *Policy Futures in Education*, 22(3), 427-453. [IF: 1.5]
31. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & *Elefante, J. (2024). Familiar faces in high school: How having the same peers from year-to-year links to student absenteeism. *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR)*, 29(1), 23-42. [IF: 2.1]
30. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). From court to classroom: Deportation proceedings and reading and math achievement for elementary students from 1998 to 2016. *American Journal of Education*, 129(3), 325-354. [IF: 2.4]
29. *Lansford, T., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). A matter of course: Student attendance under new graduation requirements of the Texas Foundation High School Program. *The High School Journal*, 106(4), 254-273. [IF: 0.9]
28. *Freeman, J. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). Linking IEP status to parental involvement for high school students of first-generation and native-born families. *Exceptional Children*, 89(2), 197-215. [IF: 5.0]
27. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). Preparedness and experiences of novice teachers in the sociopolitical context of heightened immigration enforcement: Evidence from a survey of California teachers. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 73(1), 37-51. [IF: 5.4]
26. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Lloydhauser, M. (2022). Dual certification in special and elementary education and associated benefits for students with disabilities and their teachers. *AERA Open*, 8(1), 1-11. [IF: 3.4]

25. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Gottfried, M. A., & *Freeman, J. A. (2022). Does parental involvement change after schools assign a student an IEP? *Peabody Journal of Education*, 97(1), 18-31. [IF: 1.5]
24. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). School breakfast and young children's absenteeism: Does meal location matter? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 143, 1-10. [IF: 2.4]
23. Gottfried, M.A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). Exploring the effects of full-day kindergarten on school absenteeism for children with disabilities: Evidence from state policy mandates in the U.S. *Exceptional Children*, 88(3), 263-282. [IF: 5.0]
22. Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Fletcher, T. (2022). Do high school students with a same-race teacher attend class more often? *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 44(1), 149-169. [IF: 3.3]
21. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2021). Immigration arrests and educational impacts: Linking ICE arrests to declines in achievement, attendance, and school climate and safety in California. *AERA Open*, 7(1), 1-17. [IF: 2.3]
20. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Gottfried, M. A. (2021). Is there a Catholic school effect on kindergarteners' absenteeism? *Journal for Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 14(3), 570-597. [IF: 2.5]
19. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Gottfried, M. A. (2021). The effect of serving 'Breakfast After-the-Bell' meals on school absenteeism: Comparing results from regression discontinuity designs. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 43(2), 305-328. [IF: 3.3]
18. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2021). Going to sleep and going to school: Linking bedtime to student absenteeism. *Journal of Sleep Research*, 30(1), 1-15. [IF: 4.0]
17. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2021). Math instructional practices in general education classrooms with and without students with high-incidence disabilities. *Educational Policy*, 35(7), 1258-1287. [IF: 2.9]
16. Gottfried, M. A., Ozuna, C. S., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2021). Exploring school bus ridership and absenteeism in rural communities. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 56, 236-247. [IF: 3.7]
15. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Sattin-Bajaj, C., Gottfried, M. A., ^Freeman, J. A., & Ozuna, C. S. (2020). Deportations near the schoolyard: Examining immigration enforcement and racial/ethnic gaps in educational outcomes. *AERA Open*, 6(1), 1-18. [IF: 1.9]
14. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). Reflections on the registered report process for "Academic harms of missing high school and the accuracy of current policy thresholds." *AERA Open*, 6(2), 1. [IF: 1.9]
13. Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Ozuna, C. S. (2020). Exploring the links between student and classmate chronic absenteeism. *Teachers College Record*, 122(12). [IF: 1.5]
12. Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Hutt, E. L. (2020). Can teacher education programs help prepare new kindergarten and first grade teachers to address student absenteeism? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 119, 1-11. [IF: 2.4]
11. Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Hutt, E. L. (2020). How can pre-service teaching programs help new teachers feel prepared to address absenteeism? *Teachers College Record*, 122(5), 1-28. [IF: 1.5]

10. Roberts, S., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Gottfried, M. A. (2020). Practices more likely to occur in kindergarten mathematics teachers' instruction when English learners are present. *Learning and Instruction*, 67, 1-10. [IF: 5.1]
9. Gottfried, M. A., Le, V. N., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). Disparities across time: Exploring absenteeism patterns between cohorts of students with disabilities. *Teachers College Record*, 122(11). [IF: 1.5]
8. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). Academic harms of missing high school and the accuracy of current policy thresholds: Analysis of preregistered administrative data from a California school district. *AERA Open*, 5(3), 1-13. [IF: 1.9]
Winner of the inaugural "Best Graduate Student Paper Award" by the AERA SIG: School Effectiveness and School Improvement
7. Gottfried, M. A., Hutt, E. L., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). New teachers' perceptions on being prepared to teach students with learning disabilities: Insights from California. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 52(5), 383-398. [IF: 2.6]
6. Gottfried, M. A., Sublett, C., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). Students with disabilities attending full-day versus part-day kindergarten: Short- and long-term effects on achievement. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 49, 175-187. [IF: 2.3]
5. Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Wright, A. (2019). Same-race student-teacher: Comparing outcomes for kindergartners with and without disabilities. *Remedial and Special Education*, 40(4), 225-235. [IF: 2.8]
4. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). General education teachers' math instructional practices in kindergarten classrooms with and without students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 77, 309-320. [IF: 2.7]
3. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Gottfried, M. A. (2018). Familiar faces: Can having similar classmates from last year link to better school attendance this year? *The Elementary School Journal*, 119(2), 223-243. [IF: 1.4]
2. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2017). "When" students miss school: The role of timing of absenteeism on students' test performance. *Educational Researcher*, 46(3), 119-130. [IF: 4.0]
1. Gottfried, M. A., Egalite, A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2016). Does the presence of a classmate with emotional/behavioral disabilities link to other students' absences in kindergarten? *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 36, 506-520. [IF: 2.4]

Refereed Book Chapters

- B4. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Gottfried, M. A., & *Freeman, J. A. (2024). Does parental involvement change after schools assign a student an IEP? In Lenhoff, S. W., Singer, J., & Gottfried, M. A. (Eds.), *Thinking Ecologically in Educational Policy and Research*. (pp. 18-31). Routledge.
- B3. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & *Elefante, J. (2023). A crisis in the opportunity to learn: Addressing the causes and consequences of missing school. In Matson, J. L. (Ed.), *Handbook of Clinical Child Psychology: Integrating Theory and Research into Practice* (pp. 217-231). Springer Cham.

- B2. Sattin-Bajaj, C. S., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). Is school a sanctuary: Examining the relationship between immigration enforcement and absenteeism rates for immigrant-origin children. In Gottfried, M. A. & Hutt, E. L. (Eds.), *Absent From School: Understanding and Addressing Absenteeism*. Harvard Education Press.
- B1. Oseguera, L., Abad, M., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Hinga, B., Conchas, G. Q., & Gottfried, M. A. (2017). Conceptualizing the intricacies that are concomitant in educational policy making that determine success, backfire, and everything in between. In Conchas, G. Q., Gottfried, M. A., Hinga, B., & Oseguera, L. (Eds.), *Educational Policy Goes to School*. Routledge.

Research and Policy Reports

- R10. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). *Everyone is missing more school: How student attendance patterns have shifted over time*. American Enterprise Institute. <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/everyone-is-missing-more-school-how-student-attendance-patterns-have-shifted-over-t>
- R9. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Reed, B., & Freeman, J. A. (2025). *Navigating the transition: Disability services, funding, and student outcomes in Texas community colleges*. State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. <https://sheeo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Kirksey-et-al.pdf>
- R8. Mansell, K. E., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). *Exploring the effectiveness of the PLC at Work[®] process in Texas schools*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/103746>
- R7. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Mansell, K. E., Lansford, T., & Crevar, A. R. (2024). *House Bill 5 expands postsecondary pathways for rural Texas students*. Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/house-bill-5-expands-postsecondary-pathways-rural-texas-students>
- R6. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Wiseman, A., Gottlieb, J. J., Lansford, T., Mansell, K. E., & Crevar, A. R. (2023). *Bold action for a prosperous future: Evaluation of the Foundation High School Program and academic and career trajectories of Texas high school graduates*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://ttu-ir.tdl.org/handle/2346/90733>
- R5. Sattin-Bajaj, C., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). *Effects of immigration enforcement on students in California*. Policy Analysis for California Education. <https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/effects-immigration-enforcement-students-california>
- R4. Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Hutt, E. L. (2021). *Do novice kindergarten and first grade teachers feel prepared to address student absenteeism? Evidence from a statewide survey*. Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/do-novice-kindergarten-and-first-gr>
- R3. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). *Research brief: Evaluating the impact of breakfast after the bell on chronic absenteeism*. No Kid Hungry. Center for Best Practices. <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/research/school-breakfast>
- R2. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). Preparing teachers to educate students with learning disabilities. *Policy Analysis for California Education*. <https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/preparing-teachers-educate-students-learning-disabilities>
- R1. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2018). *Self-discipline and catholic education: Evidence from two national cohorts*. Thomas B. Fordham Institute. <https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/research/self-discipline-and-catholic-schools-evidence-two-national-cohorts>

Policy Briefs

32. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2026). *Texas Tech's teacher residents boost student learning, earn TIA designations faster, and stay in Texas classrooms.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/109176>
31. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2026). *Texas's uncertified teachers: Assessing the learning loss and unstable workforce left behind.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/108689>
30. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Varney, N., Coronado, C., & Morris, R. (2026). *Teachers designated under the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment are reducing student absenteeism.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/108745>
29. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Varney, N., Coronado, C., & Morris, R. (2026). *Texas's Teacher Incentive Allotment is improving student achievement and keeping top teachers in classrooms.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/108684>
28. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Gottlieb, J. J., Wiseman, A., Reed, B. M., Lansford, T., & Robison, E. (2026). *Evaluating Opportunity Culture: Improving student achievement through strategic staffing in West Texas.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/104883>
27. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Freeman, J. A., Edwards, W., Holzman, B., & Lee, H. B. (2026). *The uneven promise of readiness: Which college and career readiness indicators actually predict success after high school?* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/104820>
26. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Freeman, J. A., Edwards, W., Holzman, B., & Lee, H. B. (2026). *Aligning incentives with opportunity in college and career readiness across rural Texas.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/104881>
25. Freeman, J. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Edwards, W., Holzman, B., & Lee, H. B. (2026). *The value of earning credentials in high school for Texas graduates entering the workforce.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/104882>
24. Freeman, J. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Edwards, W., Holzman, B., & Lee, H. B. (2026). *Beyond the threshold: What dual credit benchmarks signal about college readiness in Texas.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/104880>
23. **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Morris, R. (2025). *What predicts Algebra I success? Domain-level math trajectories and implications for instruction.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/103838>
22. **Kirksey, J. J.**, Freeman, J. A., Crevar, A. R., Reed, B., & Martin, R. (2025). *The value of alignment: How do industry-based certifications impact Texas high school students entering the workforce?* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/103789>

21. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). *Evaluating course-based CCMR indicators: Which pathways signal true readiness?* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/103085>
20. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). *The risks of relying on IGCs in Texas high schools.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/103320>
19. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). *Transforming education through teacher quality in the Permian Basin: The impact of Texas Tech University residency programs.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/102377>
18. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). *The economic benefits of high-quality teacher preparation in Texas.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/101225>
17. **Kirksey, J. J., & Gottlieb, J. J.** (2025). *Evaluation of Relay Graduate School of Education's alternative program and associated student and teacher outcomes in Texas.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/101226>
16. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2024). *Building a stronger teacher workforce: Insights from studies on Texas teacher preparation.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/99592>
15. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2024). *Amid rising number of uncertified teachers, previous classroom experience proves vital in Texas.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/98166>
14. **Kirksey, J. J., & Torres, L. G.** (2023). *Shifting the rhetoric: Maximizing the Teacher Incentive Allotment to improve schools. Report and recommendations from LONESTARP3.* University of Texas at Austin. College of Education. <https://lonestarp3.org>
13. **Kirksey, J. J., & Gottlieb, J. J.** (2023). *Virtual pathways: Linking online alternative certification programs to student achievement and teacher retention in Texas.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/95586>
12. **Kirksey, J. J., & Crevar, A. R.** (2023). *Exiting high school into the new economy: How community college baccalaureate programs support high-demand degree attainment for Texas public school students.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/95586>
11. **Johnson, L., Crevar, A. R., & Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *The promise of P-TECH: Examining impacts of a CTE-focused dual credit school model.* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/95585>
10. **Gottlieb, J. J., Lansford, T., Mansell, K. E., & Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *STEM teacher career paths: Where do they come from and where do they go?* Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/95584>

9. Mansell, K. E., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *Shifts in advanced science course-taking and post-secondary and career pathways following Texas House Bill 5*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/93034>
8. Mansell, K. E., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *Access versus attainment: A closer look at the STEM endorsement in Texas public high schools*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/93033>
7. Crevar, A. R., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *Calculating CTE math dividends for college and careers*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/92647>
6. Wiseman, A. W., Crevar, A. R., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *The promises and pitfalls of House Bill 5: What we've learned from 10 years of technical and academic endorsements in the Foundation High School Program*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/92646>
5. Crevar, A. R., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *Postsecondary undermatching in the Texas Foundation High School Program*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/92508>
4. Gottlieb, J. J., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). *Innovations in university-based teacher preparation: Comparing the "Grow Your Own" alternative to the traditional program at Texas Tech*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/90346>
3. Mansell, K. E., Gottlieb, J. J., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). *Endorsement alignment between secondary and postsecondary institutions*. Texas Tech University. Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership, and Education. <https://hdl.handle.net/2346/90340>
2. Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2021). *Preparation to educate students with learning disabilities: Implications for instructional practices in mathematics* [Vol. 3, no. 1]. California Teacher Education Research and Improvement Network. <https://cterin.ucop.edu/resources/cterin-briefs/cterin-research-briefs.html>
1. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). *Immigration enforcement and absenteeism in a California school district* [Vol. 3, no. 9]. UC Center Sacramento. <https://uccs.ucdavis.edu/public-policy/uccs-policy-briefs>

Public Commentary and Op-Eds

- C3. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2021). Breakfast after the bell programs reduce school absenteeism. *The Conversation US*. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/>
Republished by Yahoo News, Houston Chronicle, among others
- C2. Sattin-Bajaj, C., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). Understanding and addressing the consequences of immigration policies for students and educators. *Education Week*. <http://blogs.edweek.org/>
- C1. **Kirksey, J. J.** (2018). Catholic schools' competitive advantage: Self-discipline in the school choice era. *Thomas B. Fordham Institute*. <https://fordhaminstitute.org/>

Refereed Conference Presentations

Indicates postdoctoral researcher mentee at time of initial submission

* Indicates graduate student mentee at time of initial submission

^ Indicates undergraduate student mentee at time of initial submission

2026

Kirksey, J. J., Varney, N., Coronado, C., Morris, R., & Gottlieb, J. J. (2026). *Do high-performing teachers foster better attendance? Insights from the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Chicago, IL.

Kirksey, J. J., Varney, N., Mansell, K., Gottlieb, J. J., & Greenhalgh-Spencer, H. (2026). *Retaining and redistributing talent: Examining teacher retention and mobility under the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Chicago, IL.

Kirksey, J. J., Freeman, J. A., & Stultz, S. (2026). *How teachers who received special education services shape disciplinary outcomes for students with disabilities*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Chicago, IL.

Reed, B., Freeman, J. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Crevar, A. R. (2026). *Who offers, who enrolls, and what happens? Middle school CTE in Texas*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Chicago, IL.

Crevar, A. R., Mansell, K., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2026). *Pathways that pay for Texas graduates: Exploring endorsements, industry alignment, and wage outcomes*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Chicago, IL.

Kirksey, J. J., & Hogan, J. (2026). *The risks of relying on IGCs: Postsecondary and workforce implications of the alternative graduation pathway in Texas*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Chicago, IL.

Gottlieb, J. J., Morris, R., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2026). *Chronic absenteeism: A qualitative analysis of causes and mitigating factors in West Texas*. Roundtable presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Kirksey, J. J., Morris, R., & Stultz, S. (2026). *Race and ethnic congruence and Algebra I success among Texas middle school students*. Roundtable presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Crevar, A. R., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Freeman, J. A. (2026). *Closing the gap: Career clusters and workforce returns in Texas*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Freeman, J. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Crevar, A. R. (2026). *Multiple definitions, one pathway? How CTE coursetaking criteria shape concentrator classification and student outcomes*. Roundtable presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Los Angeles, CA.

2025

Kirksey, J. J., & Freeman, J. A. (2025). *Shared histories, inclusive practices: How teachers who received special education shape discipline for students with disabilities*. Paper presented at the

annual conference of the University Council for Educational Administration, San Juan, PR.

Kirksey, J. J., Freeman, J. A., & Crevar, A. R. (2025). *Examining the labor market returns of aligned and misaligned industry-based certifications in Texas*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Seattle, WA.

Kirksey, J. J., Mansell, K. E., Gottlieb, J. J., Greenhalgh-Spencer, H., & Varney, N. (2025). *Sustaining the Texas teacher workforce: The impact of the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Seattle, WA.

Kirksey, J. J., Stultz, S., & Morris, R. (2025). *Impact of race/ethnic congruence on middle school Algebra and future high school course-taking*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Seattle, WA.

Crevar, A. R., Freeman, J. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). *From high school to high-wages: The role of career clusters for students*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Seattle, WA.

Freeman, J. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Crevar, A., & Reed, B. (2025). *Multiple definitions, one pathway? How CTE coursetaking criteria shape concentrator classification and student outcomes*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Chicago, IL.

Kirksey, J. J., Freeman, J. A., Crevar, A., & Reed, B. (2025). *Credentialing for what? Examining the labor market returns of aligned and misaligned industry-based certifications in Texas*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Chicago, IL.

Crevar, A. R., Freeman, J. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2025). *From classroom to career: Career clusters and workforce entry*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Chicago, IL.

Kirksey, J. J., & Freeman, J. A. (2025). *Investigating the postsecondary effects of course-based undergraduate research experiences in Texas*. Paper presentation at the annual international conference on education of the Athens Institute for Education and Research, Athens, GR.

Kirksey, J. J., Freeman, J. A., Crevar, A. R., & Reed, B. (2025). *Credentialing for what? Examining the labor market returns of aligned and misaligned industry-based certifications in Texas*. Paper presented at the Postsecondary CTE and Workforce Development Summer Research Forum, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J., & Varney, N. (2025). *A return to the classroom: Investigating the longevity of returning teachers*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Washington, DC.

2024

Kirksey, J. J., & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2024). *The echoes of an immigration raid on postsecondary and career outcomes for students in the Texas panhandle*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, National Harbor, MD.

#Crevar, A., Mansell, K. E., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2024). *Endorsements: Economic mobility gaps and gains in the Texas Foundation High School Program*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, National Harbor, MD.

Kirksey, J. J., & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2024). *Disrupted dreams: Examining the impact of a large worksite enforcement operation on educational and workforce pathways of students*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Baltimore, MD.

Kirksey, J. J., & Mansell, K. E. (2024). *Retaining talent: The role of the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment in a small urban school district*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Baltimore, MD.

Gottlieb, J. J., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Freeman, J. A., Johnson, L., Higgins, R., & Spott, J. (2024). *Identifying course-based undergraduate research in STEM at scale*. Poster presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Baltimore, MD.

Kirksey, J. J., Lansford, T., Crevar, A. R., & Mansell, K. E. (2024). *Incentivizing achievement: Results from the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Baltimore, MD.

Kirksey, J. J., Roland, A., Varney, N., Robison, E., Reyna, M., Nagawekar, S., Mansell, K. E., Crevar, A. R., & Lansford, T. (2024). *Teacher turnover and student achievement under the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment*. Paper presented at the IAFOR International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Mavrogortado, M., Sattin-Bajaj, C., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Bartlett, C. (2024). *Sharpening blunt instruments: Moving beyond binaries in school choice research on English learners and students with disabilities*. Paper presented at the International Conference on School Choice and Reform, Madrid, ES.

2023

*Lansford, T., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *A matter of course: Student attendance under new graduation requirements of the Texas Foundation High School Program*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Atlanta, GA.

Mansell, K. E., #Crevar, A. R., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2023). *An issue of access? A closer look at AP math and science course offerings in Texas after House Bill 5*. Poster presented at the annual conference Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Atlanta, GA.

Kirksey, J. J., Freeman, J. A., Gottlieb, J. J., Higgins, R., Spott, J. L., Johnson, L., & Crevar, A. R. (2023). *Tracking undergraduate research in Texas*. Poster presented at the annual conference Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Atlanta, GA.

Kirksey, J. J., Freeman, J. A., Gottlieb, J. J., Higgins, R., Spott, J. L., Johnson, L., & Lansford, T. (2023). *Tracking undergraduate research in Texas*. Paper presented at the annual conference European Educational Research Association, Glasgow, U.K.

Kirksey, J. J., Gottlieb, J. J., Higgins, R., Spott, J. L., Johnson, L., Crevar, A. R., & Freeman, J. A. (2023). *Investigating postsecondary effects of course-based undergraduate research in Texas*. Paper presented at the Leuven Economics of Education Research Conference, Leuven, BE.

Kirksey, J. J., Freeman, J. A., Gottlieb, J. J., Higgins, R., Spott, J. L., Johnson, L., & Crevar, A. R. (2023). *Tracking undergraduate research in Texas*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO.

Kirksey, J. J., Freeman, J. A., Gottlieb, J. J., Higgins, R., Spott, J. L., Johnson, L., & Crevar, A. R. (2023). Poster presented at the annual conference American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.

Mansell, K. E., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Crevar, A. R. (2023). *An issue of access? AP math and science offerings in Texas after House Bill 5*. Poster presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO.

Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Woods, C., & Crevar, A. R. (2023). *Catholic education and self-discipline*. Poster presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO.

Kirksey, J. J., & Gottlieb, J. J. (2023). *Teacher preparation goes virtual in the wild west*. Poster presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO.

Crevar, A. R., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Mansell, K. E. (2023). *Endorsing college readiness*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO.

Mansell, K. E., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Crevar, A. R. (2023). *CTE math and science pathway access following Texas House Bill 5*. Paper presented at the annual conference Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, CO.

2022

Kirksey, J. J., *Lansford, T., & *Elefante, J. (2022). *Five days a week, six periods a day: Classes students miss most frequently and associated academic declines*. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Conference, Washington, DC.

Kirksey, J. J., *Lansford, T., & *Crevar, A. R. (2022). *CTE teacher preparation and turnover in rural districts following Texas House Bill 5*. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, Washington, DC.

Kirksey, J. J., & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2022). *Aftermath of large-scale immigration enforcement arrests on students in nearby schools*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Denver, CO.

Kirksey, J. J., *Lansford, T., & *Elefante, J. (2022). *Five days a week, six periods a day*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Denver, CO.

Kirksey, J. J., *Freeman, J. A., & *Mansell, K. E. (2022). *Comparing types of special education services in charter versus traditional public schools in Texas*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Denver, CO.

Kirksey, J. J., ^Horvath, A., ^Hand, E., ^Jones, J., & *Johnson, L. (2022). *Shared identities: Benefits of demographic representation in middle and high school math*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Denver, CO.

*Johnson, L., *Crevar, A. R., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). *The promise of P-TECH*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Denver, CO.

Gottlieb, J. J., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & *Rodriguez, A. (2022). *STEM teacher pathways: Where do they come from, and where do they go?* Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Denver, CO.

Gottlieb, J. J., **Kirksey, J. J.**, Wiseman, A. W., *Lansford, T., & *Robison, E. (2022). *Best of both worlds: Mixed methods evaluation of Opportunity Culture in a Texas district*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Denver, CO.

*Stokowski, D. M., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). *Effects of faculty accreditation policy on full-time faculty turnover in community colleges*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance

and Policy Conference, Denver, CO.

Kirksey, J. J., ^Horvath, A., ^Hand, E., ^Jones, J., & *Johnson, L. (2022). *Shared identities: Impacts of demographic representation for students of color in math*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, San Diego, CA.

Kirksey, J. J., & *Elefante, J. (2022). *Familiar faces in high school*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, San Diego, CA.

Kirksey, J. J., Gottfried, M. A., & *Freeman, J. A. (2022). *Does parental involvement change after IEP assignment?* Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, San Diego, CA.

Kirksey, J. J. (2022). *A teacher with learning differences like mine*. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J., & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2022). *Aftermath of large-scale immigration enforcement arrests*. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, Austin, TX.

2021

Kirksey, J. J., Gottlieb, J. J., & *Johnson, L. (2021). *Demographic representation in gatekeeping courses*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J., & *Elefante, J. (2021). *Familiar faces in high school*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Virtual.

*Freeman, J. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2021). *Special education services and parental involvement*. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Virtual.

Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Fletcher, T. (2021). *Do high school students with same-race teachers attend more frequently?* Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J. (2021). *Preparation and experiences of new teachers in the sociopolitical context of immigration enforcement*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J., & Lloydhauser, M. (2021). *Dual certification in special and elementary education*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, Virtual.

Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Hutt, E. L. (2021). *Preparedness to address absenteeism among new K and Grade 1 teachers*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference, Virtual.

Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Hutt, E. L. (2021). *Elementary teacher workforce development amid absenteeism*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Virtual.

2020

*Freeman, J. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). *The effects of undergraduate research participation for community college transfer students at a research university*. Paper presentation at the annual European Conference on Educational Research of the European Educational Research Association, Scotland, UK. [Cancelled]

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). *Educating the whole child: Comparing social-emotional and executive functioning skills between children in Catholic and non-Catholic schools*. Paper presentation at the annual European Conference on Educational Research of the European Educational Research Association, Scotland, UK. [Cancelled]

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). *Exploring the effects of attending full-day kindergarten for children with disabilities: Evidence from policy shifts in the U.S.* Paper presentation at the annual international conference on education of the Athens Institute for Education and Research, Virtual.

Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Hutt, E. L. (2020). *Elementary school teacher workforce development in light of the absenteeism crisis*. Paper presentation at the National Research Conference on Early Childhood, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J., Hinkle, S. C., & *Freeman, J. A. (2020). *More than an email: The importance of transfer student-faculty communication at a four-year university*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA. [Cancelled]

Gottfried, M. A., Hutt, E. L., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). *From university to classroom: Exploring general education teachers' preparedness to instruct students with learning disabilities*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA. [Cancelled]

Gottfried, M. A., Le, V., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). *Examining trends of absenteeism of kindergartners with disabilities in the face of changes in educational policies and practices*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA. [Cancelled]

Kirksey, J. J. (2020). *Evidence of the effects of local immigration arrests and deportations on trends in absenteeism in surrounding schools*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J., & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2020). *Cutting to the core: How immigration enforcement activities affect student achievement, absenteeism and wellbeing in the California CORE districts*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Virtual.

Gottfried, M. A., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Hutt, E. L. (2020). *How can pre-service teaching programs help new teachers feel prepared to address absenteeism?* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Virtual.

2019

Kirksey, J. J., & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2019). *Cutting to the core: How immigration enforcement activities affect student achievement, absenteeism and wellbeing in the California CORE districts*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Denver, CO.

Kirksey, J. J., Hancock, K. J., & Spina, A. (2019). *Instructional practices and academic outcomes in Australia's inclusive classrooms: Evidence from two nationally representative cohorts of primary school children*. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Denver, CO.

Kirksey, J. J., Hinkle, S. C., & *Freeman, J. A. (2019). *More than an email: The importance*

of transfer student-faculty communication at a four-year university. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the University Council for Educational Administration, New Orleans, LA.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). *Absenteeism in full-day vs. part-day kindergarten in the United States: Do the differences in absenteeism persist in later years of primary school for children with disabilities.* Paper presentation at the annual European Conference on Educational Research of the European Educational Research Association, Hamburg, DE.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). *Absenteeism in full-day vs. part-day kindergarten in the United States: Do the differences in absenteeism persist in later years of primary school for children with disabilities.* Paper presentation at the annual international conference on education of the Athens Institute for Education and Research, Athens, GR.

Kirksey, J. J., Gottfried, M. A., & Hutt, E. L. (2019). *Preparation of new teachers to support the inclusion of students with learning disabilities.* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, MO.

Kirksey, J. J. (2019). *Going beyond what is expected: ICE enforcement and chronic absenteeism of migrant and non-migrant students in a California school district.* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, MO.

Kirksey, J. J., Sattin-Bajaj, C., Gottfried, M. A., & Freeman, J. A. (2019). *Debunking the myth that schools are sanctuaries: Examining variation in the impact of immigration enforcement actions on educational outcomes.* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, MO.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). *Absenteeism in full-day vs. part-day kindergarten in the United States.* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, MO.

Gottfried, M. A., Salem, C., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). *Is there equity in access to school transportation? Exploring busing in rural communities.* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, MO.

Kirksey, J. J., Sattin-Bajaj, C., Gottfried, M. A., & Freeman, J. A. (2019). *Schools as sanctuaries? Examining variation in the impact of immigration enforcement actions on educational outcomes for Hispanic youth.* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

Kirksey, J. J., & Gottfried, M. A. (2019). *Examining the Catholic school effect on absenteeism in kindergarten: Evidence from a nationally representative cohort.* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

Gottfried, M. A., Salem, C., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). *Is there equity in access to school transportation? Exploring busing in rural communities.* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

Kirksey, J. J. (2019). *“Attending” charter schools: Examining a nationally representative cohort of elementary students.* Paper presentation at the International Conference on School Choice and Reform, Lisbon, Portugal.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2019). *Absenteeism in full-day vs. part-day kindergarten in the United States.* Paper presentation at the annual international conference on education of the Athens Institute for Education and Research, Athens, Greece.

2018

Kirksey, J. J. (2018). *Going beyond what is expected: ICE enforcement and chronic absenteeism of migrant and non-migrant students in a California school district*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, DC.

Gottfried, M. A., Hutt, E. L., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2018). *Are new teachers prepared to educate students with disabilities? Examining the overlay of changes to inclusion and teacher education policies*. Paper presentation at the international conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Mexico City, Mexico.

McGinnis, C. M., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2018). *Factors in choice: How parents select schools for their children in districts of choice*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Sattin-Bajaj, C., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Gottfried, M. A. (2018). *Schools as sanctuaries? Examining the relationship between immigration enforcement and attendance rates for immigrant-origin children*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Portland, OR.

Gottfried, M. A., Hutt, E. L., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2018). *Do new teachers feel prepared to educate students with learning disabilities? Evidence from California*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Portland, OR.

Kirksey, J. J., & McGinnis, C. M. (2018). *“Attending” charter schools: Examining a nationally representative cohort of elementary students*. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Portland, OR.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2018). *Going to sleep and going to school: Linking bedtime to student absenteeism*. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Portland, OR.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2018). *Linking kindergartners’ bedtime and sleep to chronic absenteeism*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Gottfried, M. A., Hutt, E. L., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2018). *Policy, preparation, and perception: Do new teachers feel ready to educate students with learning disabilities?* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Kirksey, J. J., & Gottfried, M. A. (2018). *Classmates missing school: Linking peers’ absenteeism to student test performance*. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Kirksey, J. J. (2018). *Back to school each day and on-time: Connecting missed school in early months to the months that follow*. Paper presentation at The Asian Conference on Education and International Development, Kobe, Japan.

Kirksey, J. J. (2018). *Literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving: Which skills are facilitating STEM degrees for adults with disabilities?* Paper presentation at The Asian Conference on Education and International Development, Kobe, Japan.

Kirksey, J. J., Gottfried, M. A., & McGinnis, C. M. (2018). *Catholic school effect on attendance in kindergarten: Evidence from a nationally representative cohort*. Paper presentation at the

International Conference on School Choice and Reform, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

2017

Gottfried, M. A., Hutt, E. L., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2017). *Policy, preparation, perception: California math and science teachers and students with disabilities*. Paper presentation at the Annual California STEAM Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Kirksey, J. J. (2017). *Classmates missing school: Linking peers' absenteeism to student test performance*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2017). *Familiar faces and attendance: How classmates from the previous school year influence attendance*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2017). *Literacy, numeracy, and problem solving: Which skills are facilitating STEM degrees for adults with disabilities?* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2017). *Literacy, numeracy, and problem solving: Which skills are facilitating STEM degrees for adults with disabilities?* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Danvers, MA.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2017). *When students miss school: The role of timing of absenteeism on student achievement*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2017). *Classmates missing school: Linking peers' absenteeism to student test performance*. Paper presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management California Regional Student Conference, Riverside, CA.

Kirksey, J. J., & Gottfried, M. A. (2017). *Spillover effects of missing school on achievement: Disentangling the role of classmate and individual absences*. Paper presentation at the biennial conference of the Society for Research on Child Development, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J., & Morgan, M. V. C. (2017). *Literacy, numeracy, and problem solving: Which skills are facilitating STEM degrees for adults with disabilities?* Poster session at the biennial conference of the Society for Research on Child Development, Austin, TX.

Eusterbrock, M., **Kirksey, J. J.**, & Gottfried, M. A. (2017). *Peer effects of missing school: How does classmate attendance influence individual test performance?* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Washington, DC.

Kirksey, J. J., & Gottfried, M. A. (2017). *Peer effects of missing school: How does classmate attendance influence individual test performance?* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, Washington, DC.

2016

Kirksey, J. J. (2016). *Familiar faces and attendance: How classmates from the previous school year influence attendance*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the California Educational Research Association, Sacramento, CA.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2016). *Math instruction and compositional changes*. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the California Educational Research Association,

Sacramento, CA.

Kirksey, J. J., & Gottfried, M. A. (2016). *Peer effects and the learning context for boys and girls*. Paper presentation at the annual conference on Social Justice in Education at CSU Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA.

Gottfried, M. A., Egalite, A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2016). *Does the presence of a classmate with an emotional or behavioral disability affect other students' absences?* Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC.

Invited Testimony and Briefings

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Examining the causes and effects of the increasing number of newly hired Texas teachers who are not certified by the State Board for Educator Certification on student outcomes*. Invited testimony to the Senate Committee on Education K-16, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *What predicts algebra success? Domain-level math trajectories and implications for instruction*. Invited briefing to the Texas State Board of Education Math Ad Hoc Committee, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Building a stronger teacher workforce: Insights from studies on Texas teacher preparation*. Invited briefing to Texas legislative staff and policy advocacy organizations at Educate Texas' Teaching and Learning Council, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Examining the causes and effects of the increasing number of newly hired Texas teachers who are not certified by the State Board for Educator Certification on student outcomes*. Invited briefing to Texas legislative staff at University of Texas System Lunch and Learn Session, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2024). *Examining the causes and effects of the increasing number of newly hired Texas teachers who are not certified by the State Board for Educator Certification on student outcomes*. Invited testimony to the Texas House Committee on Public Education, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2024). *State of the research on teacher preparation and teacher residencies in Texas*. Invited testimony to the Texas State Board of Education, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2023). *Comparing effects of teachers prepared fully online and teachers prepared in residency programs*. Invited testimony to the Texas State Board for Educator Certification, Austin, TX.

Invited Presentations

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Everyone is missing more school: How student attendance patterns have shifted over time*. Invited presentation at the American Enterprise Institute event, *Addressing the Attendance Crisis: New Research on Chronic Absenteeism Since the Pandemic*, Washington, DC.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Recognizing National Board Certification: A closer look at teacher effectiveness in the Texas merit-pay system*. Invited presentation at the Charles Butt Foundation's Texas Teacher Collaborative, Austin, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Building a stronger teacher workforce: Insights from studies on Texas teacher preparation*. Invited presentation at a lunch and learn hosted by the College of Education, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Building a stronger teacher workforce: Insights from studies on Texas*

teacher preparation. Invited webinar presentation for the National Center on Teacher Residencies, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Building a stronger teacher workforce: Insights from studies on Texas teacher preparation*. Invited presentation to the College of Education Community of Practice, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *The effects of the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment on teacher retention and student*. Invited webinar presentation for The New Teacher Project monthly webinar series, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Building a stronger teacher workforce: Insights from studies on Texas teacher preparation*. Invited presentation at the US PREP Learning Tour, Houston, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2025). *Building a stronger teacher workforce: Insights from studies on Texas teacher preparation*. Invited presentation at the Philanthropy Advocates and CH Foundation breakfast forum, Lubbock, TX.

Kirksey, J. J., Mansell, K., Gottlieb, J. J., & Greenhalgh-Spencer, H. (2025). *The effects and return on investment of the Teacher Incentive Allotment on teacher retention and achievement: Evidence from Cohorts A–D*. Invited presentation at the Texas Education Agency Teacher Incentive Allotment Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Kirksey, J. J., Wiseman, A., Gottlieb, J. J., Lansford, T., Mansell, K., & Crevar, A. (2022). *Bold action for a prosperous future: Evaluation of Texas House Bill 5 and academic and career trajectories of Texas public high school graduates*. Presentation at the Central Texas Education Research Collaborative bimonthly meeting, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J., Wiseman, A., Gottlieb, J. J., Lansford, T., Mansell, K., & Crevar, A. (2022). *Bold action for a prosperous future: Evaluation of Texas House Bill 5 and academic and career trajectories of Texas public high school graduates*. Presentation at the Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education, Frankfurt, DE.

Kirksey, J. J., Wiseman, A., Gottlieb, J. J., Lansford, T., Mansell, K., & Crevar, A. (2022). *Bold action for a prosperous future: Evaluation of Texas House Bill 5 and academic and career trajectories of Texas public high school graduates*. Presentation at the University of Houston Education Research Center Brown Bag Series, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J. (2022). *Expanding North Texas teacher pathways: Creating an inclusive, equipped, and sustainable workforce*. Panel policy talk at special symposium hosted by the Communities Foundation of Texas, Dallas, TX.

Kirksey, J. J., Wiseman, A., Gottlieb, J. J., Lansford, T., Mansell, K., & Crevar, A. (2022). *Bold action for a prosperous future: Evaluation of Texas House Bill 5 and academic and career trajectories of Texas public high school graduates*. Presentation at the Educate Texas convening of the Texas Student Success Council, Austin, TX.

Gottlieb, J. J., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2022). *Preparing teachers for Texas: An evaluation of Tech Teach and Tech Teach Across Texas*. Paper presentation at the Learning Tour of the University-School Partnerships for the Renewal of Educator Preparation (US PREP), Fort Worth, TX.

Kirksey, J. J. (2022). *Familiar faces: How having the same peers year-to-year links to student attendance*. Paper presentation at the “A is for Attendance” Education Research Conference sponsored by the American Educational Research Association, Detroit, MI.

Kirksey, J. J. (2021). *Academic harms of missing school and the accuracy of current policy thresholds: Analysis of preregistered administrative data from a California school district*. Paper presentation at the School Effectiveness and School Improvement SIG award session at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Virtual.

Kirksey, J. J. (2021). *From court to classroom: The extent of unexpected consequences of deportation proceedings on science, math, and reading achievement for elementary students from 1998 to 2016*. Poster presentation in dissertation fellows award session at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Virtual.

Gottfried, M. A., & **Kirksey, J. J.** (2020). *Summary: Preservice preparation of teachers to support the inclusion of students with learning disabilities*. Paper presentation at Policy Analysis for California Education, Sacramento, CA.

Kirksey, J. J. (2019). *Going beyond what is expected: ICE enforcement and chronic absenteeism of migrant and non-migrant students in a California school district*. Paper presentation at the University of California Center Sacramento lunchtime lecture series, Sacramento, CA.

Kirksey, J. J., & Gottfried, M. A. (2019). *School breakfast and schooling outcomes: Does meal location matter?* Paper presentation at the Telethon Kids Institute Research Seminar Series, Perth, Australia.

Kirksey, J. J., & Gottfried, M. A. (2019). *School breakfast and schooling outcomes: Does meal location matter?* Paper presentation at the Melbourne Institute at the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.

Kirksey, J. J. (2018). *PIAAC and the STEM pipeline: What the United States has learned about preparing underrepresented populations for STEM education*. Invited paper presentation at the Institute for Educational Sciences and Educational Testing Service PIAAC Conference, Washington, DC.

Teaching Experience

**Denotes new PhD course developed*

Texas Tech University

***Causal Inference II: Matching and Instrumental Variables**

Summer 2024; Summer 2025; Summer 2026

***Causal Inference I: Panel Data Methods**

Spring 2024; Spring 2025; Spring 2026

***Educational Policy Analysis Methods**

Fall 2020; Fall 2021; Summer 2023; Fall 2025

***Economics of Education Advanced Seminar**

Spring 2025

***Intermediate Quantitative Inquiry**

Summer 2024; Spring 2025

***Economics of Education**

Fall 2022; Fall 2024

***Data Management for Quantitative Methods**

Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Fall 2024

***Teacher Labor Markets**

Fall 2023

***Causal Inference**

Summer 2021; Summer 2022; Spring 2023

***Policy-to-Practice**

Summer 2020; Spring 2023

Quantitative Methods (Undergraduate)

Fall 2021; Spring 2022

Introduction to Educational Policy

Spring 2021

Workshops

Master Class in Fixed Effects Models

PhD students, Institutional Researchers, and Faculty

Spring 2019 (University of Sydney); Spring 2021 (Texas Tech University)

Causal Inference with Bigger and Better Data

PhD students, Institutional Researchers, and Faculty

Summer 2018 (University of California, Santa Barbara); Spring 2019 (Telethon Kids Institute);

Summer 2019 (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Advising and Mentoring

Postdoctoral Scholars

Angela Crevar, TTU

2023–24

Ph.D. Students (Committee Chair)

Andrew Roland, TTU

2026

Jennifer Nichols, TTU

2025

Roy Zamora, TTU

2025

Emmalea Salley, TTU

2025

Teresa Lansford, TTU

2024

Angela Cirino, TTU

2023

Deidra Crain, TTU

2023

Angela Crevar, TTU

2023

Levi Johnson, TTU

2023

Kristin Mansell, TTU

2023

Carolyn Phillips, TTU

Current

David Stokowski, TTU

Current

Jefferson Seaberg, TTU

Current

Braden Reed, TTU

Current

Ph.D. Students (Committee Methodologist)

Jessica Nadzam, TTU	2025
Andrea Rodriguez, TTU	2024
Amanda Tremain, TTU	2024
Adrienne Nenow, TTU	2023
Annette Macias, TTU	2023
Mary Rosene, TTU	Current

Ph.D. Students (Committee Member)

Sarah McCaslin, TTU	2025
Derek Peil, TTU	2025
Emily Robison, TTU	2025
Savannah Hollis, UPenn	Current

Graduate Research Assistants

Mary Rosene, TTU	2025–Present
Jenna Hogan, TTU	2025–Present
Raven Morris, TTU	2025–Present
Rachel Martin, TTU	2025–Present
Braden Reed, TTU	2023–Present
Nick Varney, TTU	2023–Present
Sarah Stultz, TTU	2024–Present
Vania Reyes, TTU	2024–Present
Claudia Coronado, TTU	2024–Present
Teresa Lansford, TTU	2021–24
Andrew Roland, TTU	2023–24
Angela Crevar, TTU	2021–23
Kristen Mansell, TTU	2021–23
Levi Johnson, TTU	2020–23
Joseph Elefante, TTU	2020–22
Andrea Rodriguez, TTU	2021–22

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Isabella Ybarra, TTU	2023–25
Mason Reyna, TTU	2022–24
Shruti Nagawekar, TTU	2022–23
Jaden Hendrix, TTU	2022–23
Andras Horvath, TTU	2020–22
Elijah Hand, TTU	2020–22
Kevin Alonso, TTU	2021
Spencer Knighton, TTU	2021
Lena Sarr, TTU	2021
Jerod Jones, TTU	2020–21
Jennifer Freeman, UCSB	2017–19
Rachael Karawan, UCSB	2017–19
Matias Eusterbrock, UCSB	2016–17

Academic Honors, Fellowships, and Awards

Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award, *Texas Tech University System*: 2026

Selected Participant, *University of Virginia Bayesian Longitudinal Data Modeling Training*: 2025

Fellow, *UCSB Institute on Mixture Modeling for Equity-Oriented Researchers, Scholars, & Educators (IMMERSE)*: 2024

Selected Participant, *UC-Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative Summer Institute in Migration Research Methods*: 2024

Big XII Fellowship, *TTU Office of the Provost*: 2023-24

Texas Tech Alumni New Faculty Award, *TTU College of Education*: 2023

Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, *TTU Center for Transformative Undergraduate Research Experiences*: 2022

Selected Participant, *TTU Institute for Inclusive Excellence*: 2021-22

Open Access Advocacy Award, *TTU Libraries*: 2021

Best Graduate Student Paper Award, *AERA SIG School Effectiveness and School Improvement*: 2021

Selected Participant, *UC-Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative Summer Institute in Migration Research Methods*: 2021

Graduate Research Fellowship, *National Science Foundation*: 2017-20

Dissertation Grant, *American Educational Research Association*: 2019-20

Dissertation Award, *UCSB Chicano/a Studies Institute*: 2019-20

Emerging Education Policy Scholar, *Fordham Institute and American Enterprise Institute*: 2018-19

PhD Fellow, *California Teacher Education Research and Improvement Network*: 2018-19

Emerging Scholars Award for Excellence in Research and Public Policy, *UC Center Sacramento*: 2019

Department of Education Excellence Award for Research, *GGSE*: 2019

Emerging Scholar in Educational Politics, *William L. Boyd National Workshop, AERA Division L*: 2018

Dean's Graduate Mentoring Award, *UCSB Graduate Division*: 2018

Margaret T. Getman Service to Students Award (finalist), *UCSB Student Affairs*: 2018

Instructional Fellowship, *UCSB College of Letters & Sciences*: 2016-17

Block Grant Fellowship, *Department of Education, GGSE*: 2015-17

Selected Participant, *American Enterprise Institute's Education Policy Academy*: 2017

Robin Satterwhite Prize for Most Outstanding Thesis in Economics, *Colorado College*: 2014

Keller Family Venture Grant Award for Student Research, *Colorado College*: 2014

Van Skilling Award for Economics Research, *Colorado College*: 2013

Selected Media Coverage

Seminera, M., & Shastri, D. (2026). When measles hit West Texas, school absences soared and it wasn't just sick kids who were out. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/>

Menchaca, M. (2025). HISD sees sharp decline in overuse of committees to award diplomas to high school students in 2024. *Houston Chronicle*. Retrieved from <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/>

Carpenter, J. (2025). Texas' fastest-growing path to 'college readiness' leaves many high schoolers unprepared. *Kinder Institute for Urban Research*. Retrieved from <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge>

Beasley, L., & Cortez, M. (2025). Why are Texas schools hiring uncertified teachers? *CBS News*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/>

Goldstein, D. (2025). Immigration raids add to absence crisis for schools. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/>

Jacobson, L. (2025). Chronic absenteeism's post-COVID new normal: Research shows it is more common, more extreme. *The 74 Million*. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/>

Richman, T. (2025). Will Texas' monumental investment in the teacher pipeline pay off? *The Dallas Morning News*. Retrieved from <https://www.dallasnews.com/>

Mollenkamp, D. (2025). Immigration raids are preventing students from attending school. *Ed-Surge*. Retrieved from <https://www.edsurge.com/>

Galt, J. (2025). House Bill 2: Texas pushes for certified teachers by 2027. *The Dallas Express*. Retrieved from <https://dallasexpress.com/>

Merod, A. (2025). What can be learned from Texas' surge in uncertified teachers? *K-12 Dive*. Retrieved from <https://www.k12dive.com/>

Geduld, A. (2025). A Texas-sized solution to a Texas-sized problem: Ed bill signed into law. *The 74 Million*. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/>

Rosiles, M. (2025). Reliance on uncertified teachers in Texas leads to issues, discussion by policy experts. *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.lubbockonline.com/>

Allen, S. (2025). Uncertified teachers are on the rise in Texas. Lawmakers look to clamp down. *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Retrieved from <https://www.star-telegram.com/>

Merod, A. (2025). Are uncertified teachers still the answer? *K-12 Dive*. Retrieved from <https://www.k12dive.com/>

Rafique, S. (2025). 13 Investigates found 9% of HISD's uncertified teachers left during the school year. *ABC 13 Houston* [Television broadcast]. Retrieved from <https://abc13.com/>

Heath, K. (2025). Texas academic accountability scores highlight historic inequities in Austin schools. *Austin-American Statesman*. Retrieved from <https://www.statesman.com/>

Mollenkamp, D. (2025). Schools can't find teachers. Do states need more credential rules or fewer? *EdSurge*. Retrieved from <https://www.edsurge.com/>

Haslett, M. (2025). Texas rural school districts struggle to find certified teachers. *KETR Public Radio*. Retrieved from <https://www.ketr.org/>

Najarro, I. (2025). What we know about how ICE raids disrupt student learning. *Education Week*. Retrieved from <https://www.edweek.org/>

Dey, S. (2025). Texas schools have leaned on uncertified teachers to fill vacancies. Lawmakers want to put a stop to it. *The Texas Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://www.texastribune.org/>

Jankowski, P. (2025). Texas educators say proposed increases for school funding and teacher pay are inadequate. *The Dallas Morning News*. Retrieved from <https://www.dallasnews.com/>

Ozebek, K., & Rafique, S. (2025). Texas teachers review “ridiculous” cheating scandal after TEA releases list of accused educators. *ABC 13 Houston* [Television broadcast]. Retrieved from <https://abc13.com/>

Mizan, N., & Kanik, A. (2025). 1 in 4 HISD teachers are uncertified to start the 2025-26 school year. *Houston Chronicle*. Retrieved from <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/>

Menchaca, M., & Goodwin, A. (2025). HISD’s underserved students have been failed by increasingly inflated graduation rates, advocates say. *Houston Chronicle*. Retrieved from <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/>

Dominguez, C. (2024). Houston-area school districts turn to uncertified educators during teacher shortage. *Houston Chronicle*. Retrieved from <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/>

Edison, J. (2024). Texas schools are hiring more teachers without traditional training. They hope the state will pay to prepare them. *The Texas Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://www.texastribune.org/> [Republished by Associated Press, Yahoo News, U.S. News and World Report, among others]

Gecker, J., Toness, V. B., & Lurye, S. (2024). Schools have made slow progress on record absenteeism, with millions of kids still skipping class. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/>

Heath, K. (2024). Central Texas school districts, state seek solutions to train teachers. *Austin-American Statesman*. [Front page feature article]. Retrieved from <https://www.statesman.com/>

Dupree, W. (2024). Experts share ways for Texas to rely less on uncertified teachers [Television broadcast]. *KXAN News*. Retrieved from <https://www.kxan.com/>

Sessions, K. (2024). Texas kids lose up to 4 months of learning with new uncertified teachers. *Houston Chronicle*. Retrieved from <https://www.chron.com/>

Asher, S. (2024). Uncertified teachers cost kids months of learning. *Dallas Express*. Retrieved from <https://www.dallasexpress.com/>

Richman, T. (2024). Texas kids lose up to 4 months of learning with new uncertified teachers, study finds. *The Dallas Morning News*. Retrieved from <https://www.dallasnews.com/>

Mervosh, S., & Paris, F. (2024). Why school absences have “exploded” almost everywhere. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/>

Heath, K. (2024). Will Texas State Board of Education bend farther to the right? Here are 3 races to watch. *Austin-American Statesman*. Retrieved from <https://www.statesman.com/>

Norton, H. (2024). Educators urge Texas lawmakers to invest in teacher preparation, retention. *Community Impact*. Retrieved from <https://communityimpact.com/>

Brown, D. (2024). Concerns grow over potential learning loss for students of new, uncertified

teachers. *Texas Standard*. Retrieved from <https://www.texasstandard.org/>

Klein, A. (2023). Teachers from online-only prep programs hinder student achievement, report finds. *Education Week*. Retrieved from <https://www.edweek.org/>

Heath, K. (2023). Private school vouchers to lead state education priorities for Legislature. *Austin-American Statesman*. Retrieved from <https://www.statesman.com/> [Republished by Yahoo]

Mizan, N. (2022). Fact-check: Is Abbott campaign right Texas has 90% high school graduation rate? *Austin-American Statesman*. Retrieved from <https://www.statesman.com/> [Republished by Yahoo News, San Antonio Express-News, Texas Standard]

Martínez-Beltrán, S. (2022). Gov. Abbott is betting on anti-immigration policies to win reelection. Will it work? *KUT Public Media Austin's NPR Station*. Retrieved from <https://www.kut.org/>

Murray, J. (2022). What does teacher certification contribute to outcomes for students with disabilities? *Thomas B. Fordham Institute*. Retrieved from <https://fordhaminstitute.org/>

Donaldson, E., Richman, T., & Smith, C. (2022). Texas' "wild west" teacher prep landscape could make teacher shortage worse. *The Dallas Morning News*. Retrieved from <https://www.dallasnews.com/>

Donaldson, E., Richman, T., & Smith, C. (2022). Too big to fail? Texas' largest teacher prep program riddled with problems, state finds. *The Dallas Morning News*. Retrieved from <https://www.dallasnews.com/>

Heumiller, K. (2021). Study finds "Breakfast after the bell" can improve attendance. *Research Minutes, Consortium for Policy Research in Education Knowledge Hub*. Retrieved from <https://www.researchminutes.org/>

Habib, Y. (2021). New study shows Latinx students attend class more if the teacher is Latinx. *BELatina*. Retrieved from <https://www.belatina.com/>

Barshay, J. (2020). Study: Deportations widen Latino-White achievement gaps at school. *The Hechinger Report*. Retrieved from <https://hechingerreport.org/>

Barnum, M., & Belsha, K. (2020). Students will go back to school eventually. Here are 5 concrete ideas for helping them catch up, readjust. *Chalkbeat*. Retrieved from <https://www.chalkbeat.org/>

Boudreau, C. (2020). Schools in Nevada and Colorado saw a 6 percentage point drop in chronic absence after offering so-called breakfast after the bell programs. *Politico*. Retrieved from <https://www.politico.com/>

McAuliffe, D. (2020). Nutrition programs feed student success. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Retrieved from <https://www.richmond.com/>

Russell, D. (2020). More school breakfasts mean fewer absences. *Queens Chronicle*. Retrieved from <https://www.qchron.com/>

Knudson, A. (2020). Breakfast during school day could reduce chronic absences, report shows. *Silive.com*. Retrieved from <https://www.silive.com/>

Buzalka, M. (2020). Report: Breakfast after the bell can significantly reduce chronic absenteeism. *Food Management*. Retrieved from <https://www.food-management.com/>

The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board. (2018). The Catholic school difference. *The Wall Street*

Journal. Retrieved from <https://www.wsj.com/>

Barnum, M. (2018). Students show up to school more often when they see “familiar faces,” new study finds. *Chalkbeat*. Retrieved from <https://www.chalkbeat.org/>

Gross, A. (2018). Seeing “familiar faces” among peers over the long term boosts students’ classroom comfort. *Education Dive*. Retrieved from <https://www.educationdive.com/>

Hessen, L. (Producer). (2018). *The Guy Gordon Show* [Audio podcast episode]. Retrieved from <https://castbox.fm/The-Guy-Gordon-Show>

Service

Profession

Ad Hoc Reviewer: *AERA Open* (2018-25); *American Educational Research Journal* (2020-25); *American Journal of Education* (2022); *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* (2020-25); *Educational Policy* (2019-25); *Educational Psychologist* (2020); *Educational Researcher* (2018-25); *Exceptional Children* (2021-22); *Journal for Research on Educational Effectiveness* (2019-25); *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk* (2023-24); *Remedial and Special Education* (2023); *Review of Educational Research* (2021); *Social Forces* (2020); *Sociology of Education* (2022-23); *Studies in Educational Evaluation* (2020)

Secretary/Treasurer, *AERA School Effectiveness and School Improvement SIG*: 2022-24

Section Chair, *AERA Division L Program Committee*: 2022-24

Outreach Officer and Committee Member, *AERA Division D Graduate Student Committee*: 2017-19

Student Editorial Board Member, *American Journal of Education*: 2018-19

Committee Member, *AERA Division D Mentoring Committee*: 2017-18

University

Member, *TTU Convocations Committee*: 2021-present

Member, *College of Education Dean Search Committee*: 2024-25

Member, *TTU Strategic Enrollment Planning Committee*: 2023-24

Reviewer, *TTU Scholarship Catalyst Program*: 2023

College

Chair, *Grant Writing Specialist Search Committee*: 2024-25

Member, *CIRCLE Postdoctoral Associate Search Committee*: 2024-25

Member, *Research Professor Faculty Search Committee*: 2023-24

Member, *Educational Leadership Policy Faculty Search Committee*: 2024

Special Advisor, Data and Policy Analysis Subcommittee, *Strategic Enrollment Management Council*: 2024

Member, *Graduate Research Education Ad Hoc Committee*: 2022-24

Department

Committee Member, *Annual Review Committee of Tenure-Track Faculty*: 2026

Reviewer, *Third-Year Review of Non-Tenure Track Faculty*: 2024-25

Creator and Organizer, *Education Policy Brown Bag Series*, “*ExpandedED: Broadening the Understanding of Contemporary Issues in Education and Policy*”: 2020-23

PhD Student Representative, *GGSE Education Department Graduate Recruitment Committee*: 2016-20

Coordinator, *National Conference on Advancing Individual Differences Research for STEM Learning Opportunities (AERA–UCSB)*: 2015-16

Coordinator, *UCSB–Florida A&M Summer Institute in Education Policy Research*: 2015

State

Committee Member, *Texas Education Agency PREP Allotment Research Committee*: 2025-present

Chair, *Texas LONESTAR P3 Data Council*: 2024-present

Founding Member and Steering Committee Member, *Texas Education Research-Practice-Policy Partnership Network*: 2023-present

Community

Faculty Lead, *Research-to-Practice Partnership – Fort Worth Independent School District*: 2025-present

Faculty Lead, *Research-to-Practice Partnership – Snyder Independent School District*: 2024-present

Faculty Lead, *Research-to-Practice Partnership – Ector County Independent School District*: 2024-present

Faculty Representative, *Research-to-Practice Partnership – Lubbock Education Policy Initiative*: 2021-present

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association

Association for Education Finance and Policy

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

University Council for Educational Administration