

PREFRESHMAN ENGINEERING PROGRAM (PREP)

A transformational program designed to motivate and prepare middle and high school students—many of whom are from underserved populations—for advanced studies and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

FUNDING REQUEST | \$285,729 per year; \$571,458 per biennium

OVERVIEW

The Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program (TexPREP) is a rigorous summer program preparing middle and high school students, particularly minority and female students, for advanced studies and careers in STEM fields. PREP will hold its 43rd summer program in 2022, and has served as many as 4,000 students per year from more than 125 school districts across Texas.

TexPREP provides students the opportunity to study STEM subjects in a college setting while introducing careers through speakers and field trips. TexPREP's curriculum is delivered over four years, beginning with an introduction to engineering design, logic and algebraic reasoning in the first. Second- and third-year topics include physics, integrated algebra, probability, statistics and technical writing. Year four focuses on exploring innovations in engineering — nano technology, data science and cyber security.

THE CHALLENGE

As technology advances, the fundamental need for engineering skillsets continue to grow. To address the marketplace demands for engineers and meet the objectives of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Talent Strong Texas goals, we must do more to encourage students to pursue engineering. TexPREP addresses this critical need — especially among women and members of underrepresented groups.

While PREP has received considerable private funding and in-kind support for the program, primary and sustaining support is through legislative special item funding. An absence of state funding would compromise programming statewide, reducing the program's impact and the potential for reaching thousands of Texas students. Continued state support is vital to TexPREP's ability to fulfill its historic mission of serving underrepresented students.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THE IMPACT

More than 40 years after the first PREP summer program launched in San Antonio with just 50 students, PREP has been replicated at more than 125 school districts across Texas as well as school districts in California, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Idaho.

PREP has served more than 50,000 students in Texas alone, with over 65% of participants identifying as Hispanic and 53% as female. Notably, the high school graduation rate among PREP program participants is 99%. Approximately 80% of participants go on to attend college, with 66% selecting a STEM major.

40	Years since first PREP program launched
125	Texas school districts replicate PREP
50K	Texas students served by PREP
80%	PREP participants who attend college



TAKEAWAY

PREP provides critical bridges for Texas STEM students between middle school, high school and college, ultimately positioning them to fulfill pressing workforce needs in the state.