

TEXAS STATE VITA

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Name: Rosa M. Peña

Title: Assistant Professor of Practice

B. Educational Background

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Thesis/Dissertation</i>
Ph.D.	2010	Texas State University	School Improvement-School Leadership	Creating an “Ecological Fit” Through Supportive Teacher-Student Relationships
Masters	2001	Texas State University	Educational Leadership	
Bachelor of Arts	1988	St. Edward’s University	Bilingual Education	

C. University Experience

<i>Position</i>	<i>University</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Assistant Professor of Practice-EDCL	Texas State University		August 2022 – present
Adjunct Professor - Student Teacher Supervisor	St. Edward’s University		January 2022 – May 2022

D. Relevant Professional Experience

<i>Position</i>	<i>Entity</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Interim Head of School	The Girls’ School of Austin		June 2020 – June 2022
Executive Director of Human Resource Services	Austin Independent School District		May 2019 – June 2020
Director of Leadership Development	Austin Independent School District		April 2016 – May 2019
Founding Principal Baldwin Elementary	Austin Independent School District		Dec. 2009 – April 2016
Principal Zavala Elementary	Austin Independent School District		June 2001 – Dec. 2009
Assistant Principal Rodriguez Elementary	Austin Independent School District		June 1999 – June 2001
Bilingual Instructional Specialist	Austin Independent School District		June 1998 – June 1999
Bilingual Teacher	Austin Independent School District		Aug. 1988 – June 1998

E. Other Professional Credentials (licensure, certification, etc.)

Texas Teaching Certification (Kinder-8, self-contained, Bilingual/ESL-Spanish-Lifetime).

Texas Principal Certification (2001-current).

Texas Superintendent Certification (2010-current).

Advancing Educational Leadership, Texas Education Agency/ESC 13. (October 27, 2022 - Present).

II. TEACHING

B. Courses Taught:

EDCL 5339.002-Understanding Self: Developing a Personal Vision of Leadership

EDCL 5345.00 -Understanding People: Professional Development

EDCL 5348.252-Supervision of Instruction

EDCL 6348.-School Law

EDCL 6352.00 -School as a Center of Inquiry

EDCL 6358.251-Integrative Seminar

EDCL 6387.005-Field-Based Principal Practicum I

EDCL 6387.006-Field-Based Principal Practicum II

ED 7347-The Superintendency

EDCL 7389-Field-Based Superintendent Practicum I

EDCL 7390-Field Based Superintendent Practicum II

C. Directed Student Learning

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member (Complete)

Benavidez, Megan. (2024). *"But What About the Kids?" A phenomenological study exploring teachers' perceptions of professional attrition.* Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Buchanan, Meghan. (2025). *Scared Leadership: A grounded theory study of the relationship between fear and leadership in public education*. Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

DeMommio, Tanya. (2025). *The ripple effect of explosive outbursts: Experiences and perceptions of educators navigating traumatic students' behaviors in the classroom*. Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member (In-Progress)

Almanza Martinez, Maria. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended June 27, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Barron, Malibu. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended August 21, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Canela, Surisaddai. Dissertation Proposal in Progress. Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Cardenas, Zoila. Dissertation Proposal in Progress. Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Collier, Paige. Dissertation Proposal in Progress. Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Flores, Sylvia. Dissertation Proposal in Progress. Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Hernandez, Yvonne. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended July 31, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Kattawar-Engstrom, Heather. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended September 22, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Miles, April J. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended November 17, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Reyes, Cecilia. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended December 16, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Smiley, Beth. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended December 9, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Smith, Christina. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended July 28, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Steinbach, Laura. Dissertation in Progress. (Proposal Defended December 11, 2025). Ph.D. in Educational and Community Leadership, Texas State University.

Master's Action Research Comprehensive Examination Committees: 15 Students (Fall 2025), 10 Students (Spring 2024), 9 Students (Fall 2024), 9 Students (Fall 2023), 10 Students (Spring 2023), 9 Students (Spring 2022), 10 Students (Fall 2022)

G. Teaching Professional Development Activities Attended

Banks, J.A. (2025, October). Rethinking Brown: *When diversity and equity are imperiled and democracy is fragile*. AERA Brown Lecture in Education Research.
<https://www.aera.net/2025BrownLecture>

Cavanagh, S.R. (2024, Fall Semester). *Mind over monsters: Supporting youth mental health with compassionate challenge*. Bookcats Book Club for Texas State University non-tenure line faculty.

Yeager, D. (2024, August). *The science of motivating young people*. [Discussion]. Holdsworth Center: Place the Ladder.

American Association of School Administrators. (2024, May). *“Journey to the Superintendency: Resources, tools and support you need to be successful.”* [Webinar]

Parker, P. (2024, Spring Semester). *Art of gathering*. Bookcats Book Club for Texas State University non-tenure line faculty.

Eyler, J.R. (2023, Fall Semester). *How humans learn*. Bookcats Book Club for Texas State University non-tenure line faculty.

Lang, J. M. (2023, Spring Semester). *Small teaching: Everyday lessons from the science of learning* (2nd Ed.). Bookcats Book Club for Texas State University non-tenure line faculty.

Lang, J. M. (2022, Fall Semester). *Small teaching: Everyday lessons from the science of learning* (2nd Ed.). Bookcats Book Club for Texas State University non-tenure line faculty.

Texas Education Agency/Region 13 Service Center. (2026, January). *Educator prep programs: Field Supervisor coaching training*. [Professional Development Workshop]. Austin, Texas, United States.

Texas Education Agency/Region 13 Service Center. (2022, September). *Educator prep programs: Field Supervisor coaching training*. [Professional Development Workshop]. Austin, Texas, United States.

Additional Comments: I attended Field Supervisor Coaching Training for Educator Prep Programs. This training is required for all individuals in Educator Prep Programs who have field supervisor responsibilities.

Texas Education Agency/Region 13 Service Center. (2022, August). *Advancing Educational Leadership*. [Professional Development Workshop]. Austin, Texas, United States.

Additional Comments: I attended a 3-day AEL training as a pre-requisite to participate in the AEL Trainer of Trainer Professional Development.

Texas Education Agency/Region 13 Service Center. (2022, October). *Advancing Educational Leadership: Trainer of Trainer*. Austin, Texas, United States.

Additional Comments: I attended the 3-day AEL Trainer of Trainer Seminar in the fall semester to earn certification as an AEL Trainer and co-facilitated the sessions for our principal interns.

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

A. Works in Print (including works accepted, forthcoming, in press):

1. Books:

d. Chapters in Books:

1. Gordon, S. P., **Peña, R.M.**, Solis, R., & Kubena, D. (in press). Reimagining the Educational and Community Leadership Doctoral Program: Alignment for Future Frontiers of Learning Systems. In Arar, K. & Guajardo, M. (Eds). *Reflections on Program design*. Routledge.
2. Peña, R.M (2025). A Mismatch in Vision and Practices Leads to Inequities. In Kemp-Graham, K. & Pruitt, S. (Eds.). *Interrupters, Visionaries, Champions and Legends: School Leader Evocative Autoethnographies of Resilience, Grit, Adversity, Failure and Success of Leading Public Schools in the 21st Century*. ICPEL.
3. Buchanan, M., Martinez, M., & **Peña, R.M.** (2025). Mean Girls in Educational Leadership: Overcoming Incivility Among Women. In Lasater, K., LaVenia, K.N., & Koschoreck, J.W. (Eds.). *Incivility and Workplace Toxicity in P-12 Schools: The Causes, Costs, and Solutions for Educational Leaders* (pp. 143-164). Routledge.

2. Articles:

a. Refereed Journal Articles:

1. Davis, D. L., Martinez, M. A., & **Peña, R. M.** (2024). Navigating Quandaries and Hard Places: The Impact of Leadership Dynamics on the Career Paths of Three BIPOC Women Assistant Principals. *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*, 15554589231221113.

B. Works Not in Print:

1. Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

4. Peña, R.M. (2023, November). *Creating an “Ecological Fit” through supportive teacher-student relationships and supportive school leaders*. Minneapolis, MN: University Council for Educational Administration.

3. Slater, C.L., Esparza, E. & **Peña, R.M.** (2005, September). *Educational leadership competencies*. Mexico City, Mexico: Encuentro Nacional de Gestión e Innovación Educativa en la Educación Media Superior.
2. Slater, C.L., Boone, M., Esparza, E., **Peña, R.M.**, Topete, C., Alvarez, I., Cerecedo, T., & Garcia, J. M. (2005, February). *School administrator challenges in Baja California, Mexico*. San Antonio, TX: Conference within a conference at the American Association of School Administrators Conference.
1. Slater, C.L., Esparza, E., **Peña, R.M.**, Topete, C., Alvarez, I., Cerecedo, T., & Garcia, J.M. (2005, January). *School administrator preparation in Baja California*. Barcelona, Spain: International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement.

2. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

13. Davis, D., **Peña, R.M.**, & Melendez, C. (2025, November). *Students as policy actors*. Presentation. San Juan, PR: University Council for Educational Administration.
12. Buchanan, M., Martinez, M., & **Peña, R.M.** (2025, April). *The “Mean Girl” phenomenon in educational leadership: Women’s experiences with incivility*. Presentation. Denver, CO: American Educational Research Association.
11. Davis, D., Martinez, M., **Peña, R.M.**, Galindo-Vargas, G., Kattawar-Engstrom, H., & Adamson, L. (2024, November). *Our educational leaders are not okay: Well-Being as a priority and not an option*. Critical Conversation. Los Angeles, CA: University Council for Educational Administration.
10. **Peña, R.M.** & Straubhaar, R. (2023, November). *A hard reset for principal preparation programs: How do we sustainably recruit leaders through an ethic of radical care?* Critical Conversation. Minneapolis, MN: University Council for Educational Administration.
9. Peña, R.M. (2019, September). *Human resources hiring practices*. Guest Lecturer. Austin, TX: University of Texas.
8. Peña, R.M. (2018, September). *Human resources hiring practices*. Guest Lecturer. Austin, TX: University of Texas.
7. Peña, R.M. (2018, February). *Building the urban leadership pipeline*. Presenter. Austin, TX: TASPA Winter Conference.
6. Peña, R.M. (2018, Summer). *Leadership & SEL*. SEL Leadership Symposium Panel. Austin, TX: Austin Independent School District.
5. Peña, R.M. (2018, May). *Aspen Institute’s Commission’s Panel*. Austin, Texas: Austin Independent School District’s SEL Initiative.
4. Peña, R.M. (2017, November). *AISD GotTalent-professional learning*. Guest Lecturer. Austin, TX: Texas State University.

3. Peña, R.M. (2017, October). *Building the urban leadership pipeline*. Houston: TX: Texas ASCD.
2. Peña, R.M. (2016, June). *SEL-the heart of leadership*. Leadership Conference. Austin, TX: Austin Independent School District.
1. Peña, R.M. (2015, June). *SEL-the heart of leadership*. Leadership Conference. Austin, TX: Austin Independent School District.

IV. Scholarly Grants and Contracts

A. Submitted, but not Funded External Grants and Contracts

Martinez, M. A., Vallejos-Parás, C., **Peña, R.M.**, & Ortega Barba, C. (2024). Teachers' working experiences in border states: Texas and Tabasco (3T Project). Spencer Foundation Small Grant (ID # 10060259). \$50,000 (not awarded).

Martinez, M. A., Vallejos-Parás, C., **Peña, R.M.**, & Ortega Barba, C. (2024). Studying U.S.-Mexico Policies & Practices on Retaining Teachers (SUPPORT). Spencer Foundation Small Grant (ID # 10054110). \$50,000 (not awarded).

B. Funded Internal Grants and Contracts

Davis, D.L., & **Peña, R.M.** (2024). *Centering Students as Policy Actors in Educational Contexts*. Research Enhancement Program. Texas State University. \$16,000.

V. SERVICE

A. Institutional

1. University:

2. College:

2025 Graduate College Scholarships Reviewer

2024-2025 Member, Curriculum Committee

3/2024 Presenter at Proyecto Maestro Conference

2/2024 EDCL Outstanding Dissertation Review Committee

2024 Member, Jackson Scholar Review EDCL Committee

2023-2024 Member Michael Abbott Scholarship EDCL Committee

2022-2023 Member, COE Scholarships Committee

3. Department/School:

2025-present Coordinator of EDCL MA/MEd Programs

2024-2025 Co-Coordinator of EDCL MA/Med Programs

2/2024 Superintendent Recruitment Luncheon

2023-present EDCL Recruitment Team for Master's, Ph.D., & Superintendent Programs

2023-2025 Member, Texas Quality Measures Self Study EDCL Team

2022-present Coordinator of Superintendent Certification Program

2022-2023 Co-Facilitated/Presented-3 Sessions of Advancing Educational Leadership (AEL) Saturday Seminars to Principal Interns

B. Professional:

2024 Proposal reviewer, UCEA Annual Conference

2024 Proposal reviewer, Annual AERA Division A- Educational Administration

2023 Proposal reviewer, UCEA Annual Conference

2023 Proposal reviewer, Annual AERA Division A- Educational Administration

C. Community:

2019-2025 St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church Pastoral Council Member

2018-present St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church Children's Liturgy Leader

2008 Habitat for Humanity Volunteer

2001-present St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church Lector

D. Organization Memberships:

2016-2017 President: Austin Association of Public School Administrators

2003-2019 Member: Austin Association of Public School Administrators

E. Service Honors and Awards:

2010 Harvard Summer Urban Leadership Seminar Participant

2006 American Association of School Administrators-Educational Administration Scholarship

2005 Outstanding Community Leader-Boys' Scouts

2001 Outstanding Educational Administration Graduate, Texas State University

1998 Teacher of the Year-Dawson Elementary

1998 Semifinalist Austin I.S.D Teacher of the Year

1997-1998 2nd Place-Austin Area Bilingual Association-Teacher of the Year