In this weekly post, we feature helpful research tools and recent articles of interest to the legislative community.

- Explore partnerships between public school districts and charter schools. (National Conference of State Legislatures Blog, April 23, 2018)
- Read about the alternative response option in child welfare cases. (Texas Public Policy Foundation, April 19, 2018)
- Consider the impact of real-time prescription monitoring. (Pew Research Center, April 19, 2018)
- Find a drop-off location to dispose of prescription medications safely. (Attorney General of Texas, accessed April 25, 2018)

Members of the Texas legislative community may request the articles below here or by calling 512-463-1252.

- "REAL ID: What Americans should expect," By Asia London Palomba. Christian Science Monitor, April 16, 2018, p. 17. Presents a Q&A discussion of the implementation of the REAL ID Act passed in 2005. Provides a map showing which states are in compliance with the law—Texas is compliant. Related information at: https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/real-id-act-test.pdf
- "When a grand idea grows old," By Karin Fischer. Chronicle of Higher Education, April 13, 2018, pp. A14-A18. Examines the 60-year-old California master plan of education which set up a three-tier system to educate a large population while still providing for advanced research institutions.
- "Data privacy: Copy that; The GDPR: The joys of data hygiene," Economist, April 7th-13th, 2018, pp. 10-11, 53-54. Promotes the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as a model for America, noting businesses that serve European customers will have to comply with the GDPR. Points out the benefits of complying with the new data protection law. Related information at: https://www.eugdpr.org/
- "Death: Funerals of the future," Economist, April 14th-20th, 2018, pp. 51-53. Explains how the Internet, changing norms, customer demand, and competition from new businesses are disrupting the funeral industry. Reports the industry’s revenue is expected to stagnate between 2016 and 2021, noting the long-term trend towards cremation: less than four percent in 1960 but expected to rise to 79 percent by 2035.
- "Information and college decisions: Evidence from the Texas GO Center project," By Jesse M. Curia, Trey Miller, and Emily Westburn. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, March 2018, pp. 151-170. Examines the effectiveness of Texas GO Centers, peer-run information centers that assist historically under-served students prepare and plan for college. Concludes the centers have led to a significant increase in college application rates and a limited increase in college enrollment rates, but no increase in college completion rates. Related information at: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/6575.PDF

The Legislative Reference Library compiles this weekly annotated list of Current Articles of interest to the legislative community. Professional librarians review and select articles from more than 300 periodicals, including public policy journals, specialized industry periodicals, news magazines, and state agency publications. Members of the Texas legislative community may request articles using our online form.