

## Ellen Willoughby

Ellen attended Texas State University, earning her Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. Ellen had the opportunity to do part of her student teaching abroad in London, England. At her undergraduate commencement ceremony, she was the student speaker, which was an incredible honor (and very nerve-wracking!).

Ellen worked as a 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade teacher in San Antonio while working on her master's degree in Elementary Education. She then moved back to Austin, taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and was offered the opportunity to be an instructional coach in Manor ISD at a turn-around school. The team was able to turn around the school from 3 years low-performing to a Recognized school in one year (under TAKS). During this time, she received her principal certification training through the PCN program at Region 13.

Ellen then moved to an AP role at Manor Middle School and then onto the role of principal at an elementary campus. She then had the opportunity to shift her work to the charter school world. Ellen spent 4 ½ years at IDEA Public Schools, serving as an Academic Counselor, District Academic Counselor Coach, and District Family Engagement Manager, serving 96 campuses in 7 regions.

In 2020 Ellen joined Region 13 as a Project Coordinator for Education Evaluation and Leadership, where she supports leaders through State and Local trainings, coaching, and her podcast [Drinking From the Firehose](#).

A fun fact about Ellen is she was a hairdresser for 15 years, traveling the country, educating stylists, and working in various salons in Austin. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, writing, and traveling for fun during her free time.