

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PK-12 EDUCATION

Invest in Strategic Programs and Targeted Student Funding to Improve Student Outcomes

Support strategic program investments and targeted student funding to incentivize, resource, and scale data-driven practices to improve student outcomes and better prepare students for the jobs of the future.

- Strengthen the state's commitment to House Bill 3 (86R) and advancement of evidence-based programs by expanding the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) and Teacher Mentor Allotment to support effective educators and expanding the Early Education Allotment and Compensatory Education Allotment to support strong academic foundations
- Reduce the barrier to entry for Additional Days School Year (ADSY) to promote increased instruction time
- Establish a Teacher Residency Allotment to support high-quality teacher preparation programs that lead to improved student outcomes and better teacher retention

Bolster Development and Retention of Effective Educators

Support strategies to strengthen the teacher workforce, incentivize our best educators to stay in the classroom, and set future teachers on a path toward successful and sustainable careers in the field.

- Support increased access and participation in high-quality educator preparation pathways such as teacher residencies and apprenticeships
- Better resource and compensate Texas teachers to make teaching a more sustainable career path and reward and retain high-performing educators
- Reduce barriers to and incentivize completion of high-quality certification programs and provide notification to parents regarding uncertified teachers in the classroom
- Strengthen the effectiveness of all teachers, especially novice and uncertified teachers, through enhanced professional development programs such as mentoring and instructional coaching
- Incentivize completion of professional development leading to certification in computer science instruction to increase access to coursework statewide that is vital to supporting technological innovation in Texas
- Expand teacher externship opportunities to connect classroom instruction to the workplace and facilitate teaching about trends and opportunities in the workforce, particularly in STEM fields

Advance Strong Early Academic Foundations and Accelerate Learning

Support evidence-based strategies that bolster high-quality instruction, strengthen foundational skills, and improve student outcomes to ensure that all Texas students reach and maintain their maximum potential.

- Invest in improving school readiness by expanding the Early Education Allotment to include three- and four-year olds that are eligible for PreK
- Leverage data-backed strategies to improve reading and math outcomes such as early literacy and math screening, early intervention, instructional coaching and parent resources
- Maximize implementation of House Bill 1605 (88R) to ensure all districts have access to high quality instructional materials and teachers are equipped to utilize these resources
- Better resource the implementation of evidence-based strategies including high-impact tutoring to accelerate instruction for students that are below grade level
- Reduce barriers to entry for programs like ADSY that data shows improve student outcomes

Monitor Progress with a Strong, Transparent Assessment & Accountability System

Prioritize continued utilization of Texas's system of summative annual assessments to ensure accurate measurement of academic progress and empower decision makers and parents to help close learning gaps. Ensure the state maintains a meaningful, fair, and transparent A-F accountability system to accurately evaluate school district performance, define excellence and spur continuous improvement.

- Support piloting innovative assessment design that allows for actionable progress monitoring throughout the school year and reduces the pressure of one test, one day
- Avoid the introduction of additional performance indicators that dilute the accountability system or unfairly disadvantage some districts or campuses
- Improve alignment between the accountability system and workforce needs by adjusting College, Career, Military Readiness (CCMR) indicators to more accurately predict collegiate readiness without remediation and post-graduation success and better incentivize pathways to credentials of value in high-demand fields that provide economic mobility.

Improve Postsecondary Readiness to Put More Students on a Pathway to Success

Support strategies to expand access to coherent pathways leading to credential attainment in high school; incentivize data-driven achievements linked to future postsecondary and workforce success.

- Incentivize PK-12 pathways that reflect current workforce needs through reforms to the CCMR outcomes bonus and industry-based certifications
- Expand quality advising to encourage participation and increase access to programs and courses that lead to better postsecondary outcomes including advanced coursework, career and technical education (CTE), dual credit, and credentials of value attainment that align with statewide and regional high-demand fields
- Facilitate and foster partnerships between employers, high schools and community and technical colleges to expand access to work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeships, and career exploration without sacrificing academic standards

Maximize Postsecondary Access & Completion Aligned with Workforce Needs

Sustain the state's investment in outcomes-based funding for community colleges established by House Bill 8 (88R). Support strategies to increase credential of value attainment in alignment with statewide and regional labor market needs.

- Fully fund the outcomes formula to reward community colleges for improving their results and incentivize investment in credential programs that provide economic mobility and align with workforce needs as well as student success initiatives that lead to higher completion rates such as access to flexible and affordable childcare and other wraparound supports
- Expand fundable transfer outcome to include transfers to Texas private 4-year universities
- Increase investment in the state's financial aid programs to expand access to postsecondary opportunities for low-income students and remove barriers to completion and transfer
- Facilitate programs that accelerate credential completion such as credit transferability compacts, prior-learning and competency-based education models
- Maintain the Texas Dream Act allowing Texans without legal status to pay in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education to enhance their economic contributions to the state

Strengthen Data Integration & Agency Alignment

Continue to support and promote the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative and facilitate improved data sharing between agencies and the public.

- Improve the workforce data infrastructure to allow for a more integrated data sharing system that connects the dots between credentials earned, job placement, and wages
- Improve the alignment of funding incentives across PK-12, Postsecondary and Workforce systems

Maximize Workforce Inclusion & Advance Strategies for High-Demand Sectors

Support strategies to maximize workforce inclusion for specific populations with unique needs. Advance sector-specific hiring needs in high-demand, essential and emerging fields that are critical to the state's economy and supporting quality of life in Texas.

- Ensure the availability of resources and pathways for reskilling and upskilling for incumbent workers
- Support workforce preparedness for the AI transformation
- Support the transition to skills-based hiring
- Promote employer partnerships with education providers to be responsive to changing workforce needs through the development of new credentials of value and work-based learning opportunities
- Maximize workforce participation by supporting effective long-term solutions for increasing access to affordable, high-quality childcare
- Advance strategies that help to address workforce shortages in high-demand fields such as healthcare, teaching, IT and advanced manufacturing
- Resource initiatives which provide targeted assistance to help the estimated 4 million adults (ages 25 and older) in Texas that have some college but no degree to re-enroll and complete a credential
- Increase access to high-quality postsecondary opportunities in Texas prisons and reduce barriers to second chance employment

INFRASTRUCTURE

Support strategies and cost-effective investments in critical state infrastructure to provide the enabling conditions for a globally competitive Texas.

- Support the creation of a dedicated funding source for the Texas Water Fund
- Support a one-time generational investment in the Texas Water Fund
- Support legislation related to, and an investment of state fiscal resources in, science necessary to address water challenges facing the state, including a better understanding of the impact of emerging technologies on our state's water supply and updating of Surface Water Availability Models and Groundwater Availability Models
- Support continued fiscal stewardship in managing the corpus of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT), and continued implementation of projects included in the State Water Plan and financed through SWIFT
- Support efforts to further develop the state water planning process and implementation of projects resulting from that process
- Expand agency capacity to allow the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to adequately address state water needs, such as water supply development, flood control mitigation and infrastructure repairs
- Maintain Texas as a global economic leader through strategies to expand power generation capacity to support population growth and the emerging technology that will drive our future economy
- Support strategies to increase the availability of low- and middle-income housing to address existing housing shortages impacting our workforce such as updating existing zoning requirements to provide more flexibility to allow for mixed-use and residential development and incentivizing office-to-residential conversions
- Continue to improve state agency preparedness by supporting increased cybersecurity preparedness, education, and training throughout state government

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNANCE

Continued commitment to policies that foster a business climate for growth and innovation.

- Maintain a reasonable tax and regulatory framework that encourages innovation and job growth
- Maintain a competitive Texas Enterprise Fund with a minimum balance of \$200M for the biennium
- Strengthen Texas's Production (Film) Incentive Programs
- Explore a potential increase to state revenue through the careful and controlled expansion of the entertainment industry in Texas
- Protect employers from legislation that increases health care costs and preserve ERISA employer, employee, and health plan benefits by opposing any attempt to erode the federal preemption of state law relating to health benefit plans
- Improve the efficiency of the health care delivery system by supporting measures such as the removal of barriers to top of license practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), physician assistants, and pharmacists, with a special focus on health professional shortage areas
- Create an AI governance framework that provides minimum safeguards for consumers and promotes the development and deployment of safe, transparent, and accountable AI systems while maintaining a business environment that fosters innovation
- Support programs to bolster educational attainment and an all-of-the-above approach to workforce development that aligns with high-demand and emerging fields such as AI