Linking Education and Workforce: Spurring Economic Growth Across Texas

TRI-AGENCY WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

Priority 1
Support efficient and flexible pathways to earning high-value credentials linked to high-wage, in-demand jobs.

Strategy 1.2

Strengthen and streamline collaboration among key education and workforce system stakeholders who are developing pathways at the regional level by:

- **Integrating state strategies and supports for regional collaboration; and**
- **Leveraging existing structures to better connect regional education and workforce systems.**

ACTION ITEMS

Examine existing regional collaborations and implement improvements, considering options such as recognitions for high-quality regional partnerships and regional intermediaries.
Develop informal and formal pre-kindergarten (pre-K) partnerships between the Texas Rising Star child care and public school systems to support transitions and readiness.
Strengthen coordination across state agencies overseeing the multiple components of early education.
Work with regional partners to identify and publish information about skills and credentials needed for emerging industries.
Disseminate best practices for regional upskilling initiatives to multiple audiences across the state.
Create programs to encourage and facilitate the continuous training and upward movement of Texas' workforce.
Enhance employer outreach regarding Workforce Solutions Business Services, Work Opportunity Tax Credits, and fidelity bonding.
Create an online application process for entities seeking funding through grants such as the Jobs and Education in Texas (JET) Grant Program and the Skills Development Fund.
Increase collaboration between the Texas Education Agency and Education Service Centers to develop a train-the-trainer model for professional development for teachers, especially for teaching literacy aligned with the Science of Teaching Reading curriculum.
Leverage existing tax and abatement and incentive programs to expand industry and employer partnerships with local education agencies to support local career and technical education programs.

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