



Linking Education and Workforce: Spurring Economic Growth Across Texas

TRI-AGENCY WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

> **Priority 1**
Strategy 1 of 3

Priority 1

Support efficient and flexible pathways to earning degrees, certificates, and other credentials linked to high-wage, in-demand jobs.

Strategy 1.1

Identify students' most efficient paths to attaining high-value credentials by:

- **Aligning training programs and associated credentials with in-demand, high-wage industries;**
- **Mapping clear pathways to high-value credentials for all Texans, including veterans, incumbent and dislocated workers, and youth involved with the justice system;**
- **Improving alignment across secondary and postsecondary CTE pathways; and**
- **Creating clear on- and off-ramps for pathways through expanded credit and credential portability.**

ACTION ITEMS

Coordinate efforts to increase short-term training leading to high-value credentials in order to reskill and upskill Texans.
Develop criteria for a shared definition of "high-value credentials" and ensure they are aligned across the Tri-Agency partners and provide clear career pathways.
Create a regional model to provide clear career pathways and opportunities for adult learners to return to postsecondary education and workforce training to complete high-value postsecondary credentials.
Work in consultation with institutions of higher education to develop a joint services transcript review process to determine if a transitioning service member or veteran may be close to earning a high-value credential.
Perform a comprehensive review of Texas transfer policies and adopt options to improve student success.
Collaborate with partner agencies to create secondary-postsecondary career and technical education pathways for articulated adoption by institutions of higher education and local education agencies through the alignment of secondary and Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) courses.
Promote curricular innovations in career and technical education and the incorporation of industry-based certifications into course and program objectives, prioritizing regional coordination and labor-market alignment.
Encourage institutions of higher education and local education agencies to provide equitable access and ensure rigor in dual credit programs that lead to academic and workforce credentials.
Provide resources and guidance on the incorporation of employability skills into the training and education experience.
Provide guidance on best uses of online vs. hands-on learning when technical expertise is needed in technical and trade training services.
Guide the development of specialized trainings for high-wage, in-demand jobs that require specialized skills and may not require a standard certification.
Assist Windham School District completers with submission of occupational licensing applications prior to release.
Align re-entry services across Windham School District, Workforce Solutions offices, and Texas Workforce Commission.
Improve data collection for, reporting on, and accountability for dual credit offerings.
Complete a comprehensive review of dual credit memoranda of understanding between institutions of higher education and local education agencies.
Work in consultation with institutions of higher education to build multiple mathematics pathways from high school through higher education and into the workplace.
Merge Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps with career and technical education.
Review, update, and maintain certification and credential inventory in coordination with the Texas Workforce Investment Council and the Tri-Agency partners, as required by HB2729 (85R).

