



# Linking Education and Workforce: Spurring Economic Growth Across Texas

TRI-AGENCY WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

> **Priority 2**  
Strategy 3 of 3

## Priority 2

Ensure students receive the supports necessary to succeed at all stages of their educations and in their transitions to the workforce.

### Strategy 2.3

**Reduce financial barriers in education by:**

- Addressing gaps such as broadband internet and early child care;
- Refining the Texas financial aid system; and
- Providing financial supports to Texans who pursue careers in teaching.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Perform a comprehensive review of the Texas financial aid system and its impact on student participation and success, including an exploration of ways to encourage innovation and improve alignment of the system with 60x30TX goals.
Explore ways to encourage institutions of higher education to offer and expand high-quality, evidence-based student support programs.
Enhance the quality of financial aid information made available to students, their families, and advisors.
Develop shareable, customizable, and scalable digital resources to expand OERTX, the state repository for postsecondary open education resources.
Work with employers to develop strategies to address child care issues experienced within the community and/or by their employees.
Work in consultation with providers to expand and support online workforce training and education opportunities.
Address statewide challenges in accessing digital devices and broadband internet.
Address unpaid teaching requirements, such as field residencies, for Education Preparation Programs.
Maximize the effectiveness of existing programs providing financial assistance to those entering teaching.
Build a hub or central website that distills all information for loan forgiveness programs to create a coordinated approach to reducing debt for educators.

