



The Texas Workforce System

The Texas workforce system is comprised of various programs, services and initiatives administered by 8 state agencies, 28 private sector led local workforce development boards, community and technical colleges, local adult education providers and independent school districts. By delivering programs that assist Texas’ current and future workers in obtaining high demand and sustainable employment, these system partners serve a critical role in the development of a world-class workforce.

The 28 Local Workforce Development Boards in Texas, operating under the Workforce Solutions brand, direct federal, state, and local funding to workforce development programs. They also oversee the American Job Centers, where job seekers can get employment information, learn about career development training opportunities and connect to education and training programs in their area.

Local Workforce Development Boards (WDB’s) are comprised of formal groups of community volunteer leaders who identify the needs of the local job market, oversee one-stop career centers, and work to coordinate and align workforce initiatives in their areas. WDB’s, with members from business, local elected officials, labor, economic development, educators, and community-based organizations, foster high-growth career opportunities to meet the needs of their regional economy. This system exists to help businesses find qualified workers to meet their present and future workforce needs, and to help workers acquire education and skills for employment opportunities.

Key Workforce Development Board Programs

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
- Rapid Response
- Child Care Services
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Choices
- Noncustodial Parent Choices
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)

Functions of Local Workforce Development Boards

- Employer Engagement
- Workforce Stakeholder Partnerships
- Workforce Research, Regional Labor Market Information
- Career Pathways Development
- Program Oversight and Development
- Budget Administration/Accountability
- Coordination with Education & Training Providers
- Negotiate Performance Standards
- Local/Regional Plan
- Select One-Stop Operators, Providers

[Texas Workforce Solutions Boards](#)



[What is a Workforce Development Board?](#)

Video from National Association of Workforce Boards

State Policy Priorities – 88th Texas Legislature

Workforce Training

- Enhance tri-agency initiatives to increase workforce supply and accelerate training to meet the goal of the Building a Talent Strong Texas Initiative
- Increase funding levels for workforce training programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in collaboration with Workforce Development Boards and other workforce development partners, including the Skills Development Fund, Skills for Small Business Program, Career and Education Outreach Specialist Program, Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program, Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Program and High-Demand Job Training Program
- Expand apprenticeships and internships for high school and post-secondary students and incentivize and/or remove barriers for businesses, including providing employer tax credits for employers providing internships for high school and community college students
- Provide greater access to training and employment opportunities for ex-offenders and eliminate unnecessary barriers for ex-offenders to obtain occupational licenses required by the State

Education

- Increase funding levels for public education and public post-secondary institutions in order to advance educational attainment opportunities and create career pathways
- Reform the state's assessment and accountability systems to appropriately measure all factors that influence student performance and school ratings
- Expand teacher quality initiatives at every level of the education continuum
- Provide additional funding for Texas Community Colleges and Texas State Technical College to accommodate student enrollment growth and inflation
- Expand and fund quality full day early pre-kindergarten programs
- Expand dual course study programs, certificate programs and workforce continuing education programs at both high school and middle school levels
- Expand the number of Industry-based Certifications in Texas, including expediting the process related to the TEA's approval of industry-based certifications for public school accountability
- Encourage/support partnerships between school districts and employers such as P-TECH and early college high school academies
- Increase the availability of Career & Technology Education (CTE) programs in public community and technical colleges and independent school districts
- Develop initiatives to increase the number of elementary school students attaining basic skills before their exit to middle/intermediate schools, including the abilities to read English on grade level by the conclusion of the 3rd Grade and to perform basic math functions

Economic Development

- Replace Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code in order to remain competitive for large-scale capital investment projects that bring high-paying jobs to Texas
- Protect the Economic Development Sales Tax for economic development purposes
- Provide continued funding of the Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF)
- Preserve Chapter 380/381 Agreements for economic development projects
- Maintain local government control for public education, economic development and workforce development