Texas’ College- and Career-Ready Commitment

The Economic Imperative

Today, nearly every good job requires some postsecondary education and/or training (e.g., an associate’s or bachelor’s degree, certificate, or apprenticeship or significant on-the-job training). All students need to be academically prepared to compete for good jobs in the global economy.

In 1950, 60% of jobs were classified as unskilled, attainable by young people with high school diplomas or less. Today, less than 20% jobs are considered to be unskilled.1

- **80%** of Texas’ jobs are middle or high skills (i.e., require some postsecondary education or training).

- **Only 34%** of Texas’ adults have some postsecondary degree (associate’s or higher).2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean Income</th>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$11,467</td>
<td>HS Dropout</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$24,083</td>
<td>HS Graduate</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,075</td>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$59,679</td>
<td>Bachelors &amp; Above</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More education is associated with higher earnings and higher rates of employment in Texas.3

The Equity Imperative

Far too many students drop out or graduate from high school unprepared for success, closing doors and limiting their options and opportunities – in particular minority and low-income students.

Texas’ achievement gaps begin in the earliest grades and extend through college enrollment and admissions.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Measures</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Low SES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade Math Proficiency</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Reading Proficiency</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Graduation Rate</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Completion Rate</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Expectations Gap

The bar has been set too low for too long, keeping students from reaching their full potential. If we want students to achieve more, we need to expect more.

- **38%** of Texas’ students in two-year colleges and **24%** of Texas’ students in four-year colleges require remediation.5

- Only half (50%) of students who enter public colleges in Texas earn their degrees.

- **34%** of employers deem the preparation of newly hired employees with only a high school diploma as “deficient,” (and only 16% find their preparation “excellent.”)6

- **49%** of employers surveyed noted they anticipate requiring higher levels of education for most jobs – and another **60%** noted more specific technical skills will be required – in the next 3-5 years.7

All too often, students regret not working harder once they leave high school.8
Texas’ College- and Career-Ready Commitment

The College- and Career-Ready Agenda

Over the past five years, states have driven the college- and career-ready agenda – a policy agenda that seeks to ensure all students graduate high school, and graduate ready for their next steps.

Texas’ is among the states that have made college and career readiness a priority for all students.¹

- In 2009, Texas revised their academic standards in math, English, science and social studies to ensure their alignment the state’s College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS).
- In 2003, Texas first adopted the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) – a college- and career-ready curriculum – as the default graduation requirements for all students. In 2008, Texas further raised the rigor of the RHSP, requiring four courses in the four core academic subjects.

Texas is one of only 24 states (including DC) with requirements at this level

Texas is one of 18 states with high school tests used by higher education for placement decisions letting students know if they are ready for college-level coursework while still in high school to give them time to address any readiness gaps

Texas is one of 26 states with a P-20 longitudinal data system that regularly matches student-level K-12 and postsecondary data

Texas is the only state that has an accountability and reporting system that values college and career readiness for all students, supported by the use of multiple college- and career-ready indicators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College-and Career-Ready Indicator</th>
<th>Publicly Reported</th>
<th>State Set Goal</th>
<th>Incentive to Improve</th>
<th>Accountability Formula</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCR Diploma</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCR Assessment</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Remediation</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding CCR</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Texas Can Further Advance the College- and Career-Ready Agenda

- Fully realize the promise of the college- and career-ready standards by implementing them fully and successfully, and taking steps to ensure they fully reach every classroom across the state.
- Closely monitor which students are completing the college- and career-ready curriculum, and which are opting out.
- Continue to make progress on the state’s K-12 accountability system to determine how it can further reward measures of college and career readiness, in alignment with the state’s standards, course requirements and assessments.
- Focus efforts around increasing the state’s graduation rate (and decreasing the dropout rate) through student support programs and partnerships with higher education.

² Skills to Compete http://www.skills2compete.org
⁵ Analysis of NAEP data downloaded from nationsreportcard.gov
⁹ Achieve/SHRM