



The Texas Student Success Council (TSSC) was created in 2012 to develop policies that create smooth, streamlined pathways from K-12 to a credit or credential of value. The Council is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders representing K-12, higher education, philanthropy, and the workforce, coming together with the joint mission of ensuring every Texas student has what they need to succeed in school, the workforce, and life.

To achieve this goal, members channel their energy and expertise into developing policy recommendations that promote K-12 and higher education linkages, improve portability of credits and credentials, and foster greater alignment between education and the workforce.

Below, we offer recommendations for increasing alignment across education sectors, ensuring college and career training is aligned with the regional workforce needs of the state, and strengthening pathways from K-12 to college.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen Alignment across Education Sectors



1.1 Require institutions to identify stackable credentials of value on readily accessible websites and publications and to incorporate these pathways into their advising framework.



1.2 Implement the most efficient application of learning from all sources toward credit for a degree through a renewed emphasis on portfolio assessment, competency-based learning, military credit, and American Council on Education (ACE) certified learning, among others, as directed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to institutions of higher education.



1.3 Align the Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) courses and Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) courses, executed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to eliminate roadblocks and foster the applicability of courses toward academic degrees.



1.4 Provide statutory authority to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to enforce the Texas Transfer Framework and related initiatives.

2. Align College and Career Training to Regional Workforce Needs



2.1 Support the recommendations of the Texas Community College Finance Commission that strengthen K-12, higher education, and workforce alignment that prepare students for in-demand careers.



2.2 Ensure the Texas Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative promotes the effective expansion of high-quality work-based learning opportunities at scale, including transparent, measurable outcomes that promote lifelong learning and reskilling opportunities for all Texans from secondary students through adult learners.



2.3 Appropriate additional funds to support Tri-Agency staffing to ensure effective implementation of Tri-Agency initiatives including data sharing and to support collaboration among the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission to meet the goals of Building a Talent Strong Texas.



2.4 Expand opportunities for paid work-based learning, apprenticeships, and other opportunities that provide students with meaningful work experience and create connected pathways to marketable skills, degrees, and industry recognized credentials.

3. Strengthen Equitable Pathways from K-12 to College



3.1 Support equitable access to dual credit, Early College High School, and Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH), with a focus on increasing the number of students that enroll and earn applicable college credit, degrees, and credentials of value while in Texas high schools.



3.2 Bolster middle school college and career advising by strengthening the alignment to high school and postsecondary pathways and requirements through increased professional learning and coordination, aligning endorsements to meta-majors and programs of study, and aligning with industry needs.



3.3 Consider options to increase support for school districts in implementing Algebra 1 in 8th grade.

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For more information on the Texas Student Success Council, please visit edtx.org/tssc.

To view our sources, please visit edtx.org/documentsources.

These Council recommendations were developed collaboratively and finalized by a majority vote from voting members. Ex officio Council members representing state and local agencies provided expertise and insight during the development of these recommendations, but did not vote or advocate in keeping with the legal allowances of their organizations.

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