



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW STATEWIDE VOTER SURVEY SHOWS STRONG, BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR Investments in Texas STUDENTS and the State's Future Workforce**

***Large majority of Texas voters agree Texas should invest in our students to ensure our state is equipped with a skilled workforce to secure our economic future***

**AUSTIN, TEXAS**--A new statewide voter survey released by Philanthropy Advocates shows broad, bipartisan support for advancing education to invest in our economy.

"We know well-funded, high-quality public schools and colleges shape our future, ensuring a well-trained, highly-skilled workforce and better quality of life for Texans," said Kristin Boyer, Executive Director of **Trellis Foundation** and Chair of the Philanthropy Advocates Leadership Committee.

The survey, conducted by Basalice & Associates, Inc., and funded by Philanthropy Advocates found:

- 94 percent of Texans agree that an educated workforce is the key to the future economic success of Texas.
- 94 percent of Texans agree that Texas cannot rely on importing talent to maintain our competitive economic edge. Instead, Texas should invest in our students to ensure our state is equipped with a skilled workforce to secure our economic future.
- 87 percent of Texans agree the state should address the growing need for more early childhood educators to ensure working parents have access to high-quality child care and Pre-K.
- 92 percent of Texans agree that providing students with the preparation to succeed in the workforce is an essential role of public schools.
- 93 percent of Texans favor the state addressing teacher compensation, benefits, and working conditions so that good teachers remain in place to prepare students to be the future workforce.
- 93 percent of Texans agree that community colleges should be properly funded so they can continue to offer the training needed for people to get a good job or a better job.
- 96 percent of Texans agree that Texas students should have access to opportunities to earn college credit while they're still in high school through programs such as dual credit, apprenticeships, and career and technical education courses.

"To prepare the workforce of tomorrow, we must invest in education today. This legislative session, we have an unprecedented opportunity to fund programs that will ensure our students can succeed in a 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy and keep the Lone Star State the nation's premier business destination," said Glenn Hamer, CEO of the **Texas Association of Business**.



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a COLLABORATION with EDUCATE TEXAS

“School districts across the Lone Star State are experiencing first-hand the issues reflected in this data. We look forward to our elected leaders taking action to improve workforce education, prioritize the education profession, and ensure the future success of Texans through a quality public education as is required in the Texas Constitution. Now is the time to seize this unprecedented opportunity and make sure we are investing in our future leaders and the future of our state for generations to come,” said Dr. Kevin Brown, Executive Director of the **Texas Association of School Administrators**.

“We must invest adequately and wisely in our public schools and colleges. Money in education is not the only solution, but it’s critical that sufficient money be well spent to support strong public schools, colleges, our teachers and students. One key investment to be made is in our community colleges, which should be properly funded so they can continue to offer the training needed for people to get a good job or a better job,” said Justin Yancy, President of the **Texas Business Leadership Council**.

“The strength of the Texas economy is dependent on our education system. Community colleges are a critical component of this system, as we are drivers of our local and regional economy that keep the state of Texas booming. We are pleased to see that the attitudes of Texans align with the priorities of community colleges,” said Ray Martinez III, President of the **Texas Association of Community Colleges**.

The Philanthropy Advocates survey was conducted by Baseline & Associates, Inc. Sept. 27 – Oct. 3, 2022 among N=800 likely voters. The margin of error to the results is +/- 3.5 percent.

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## About Philanthropy Advocates

Philanthropy Advocates is a statewide funders’ collaborative made up of over 55 Texas grantmakers from across the state that works to empower Texas philanthropy to invest and engage in effective public education policy and advocacy at the state level. Philanthropy Advocates works to fill data holes around critical public education issues by providing objective, high quality data to Texas policymakers and the public. Find us online at [PhilanthropyAdvocates.org](http://PhilanthropyAdvocates.org) and on Twitter [@TX\\_philanthropy](https://twitter.com/TX_philanthropy).