

Modernizing State Educational and Workforce Data Infrastructures

Key Takeaways:

- Pursuant to HB 3767 (87-R), the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative has adopted statewide workforce goals and strategies to meet the state's current and long-term workforce needs.
- Improved education and workforce data are needed to leverage the state's education and workforce programs in line with the Tri-Agency's workforce goals and strategies.

Background:

By 2030, 62% of all Texas jobs will require postsecondary education or training. To meet the state's needs for skilled labor, the Governor and Legislature have invested into the development of improved state education and workforce data infrastructures. This will allow education providers, decisionmakers, stakeholders, and students to better understand state postsecondary education and training options and which programs offer the most value. The Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative is building on these initial investments, pursuant to HB 3767 (87-R), with an official state workforce goal of creating publicly available data dashboards reporting education and workforce outcomes data that are disaggregated by income, race, ethnicity, gender, and region by June 2024.

Proposed Action:

Texas 2036 proposes adoption of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) exceptional item request item #2, Data Security and Modernization, to accomplish the Tri-Agency's workforce goal on providing publicly-available education and workforce data. Texas 2036 also proposes authorization for 5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions to staff the data security and modernization efforts.

Budget Cost Estimate:

THECB estimates this exceptional item to cost \$15 million over the biennium and includes 5 FTEs.

Public Policy Impact:

Actionable education and workforce data will empower education providers, decisionmakers, stakeholders, and students to jointly accomplish the state's higher education goal of having 60% of all working-age Texans have a postsecondary credential of value by 2030. In turn, the state will have the skilled labor needed to fill Texas employers' workforce needs.