WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT

Key Takeaways:

1. Texas has a generational opportunity to overhaul its Community College Finance formulas to meet the state's workforce needs.

2. Texas also has the opportunity to significantly increase the number of workforce credentials earned in high school, particularly in rural schools, by adopting the recommendations of the Texas Commission on Virtual Education.

3. The state should continue its commitment to the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative, which builds the data and cross-agency infrastructure toward long-term alignment of the state’s education and workforce systems.

Bills To Monitor:

- HB 8 (VanDeaver) – reforms the state community college finance system.
- HB 1703 (Ordaz) – improves the Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) data system tracking employment and wage outcomes for participants of state workforce development programs.
- HB 3141/SB 1861 (K. King/Bettencourt) – implements the recommendations of the Texas Commission on Virtual Education.
- HB 3924/SB 2066 (Oliverson/Bettencourt) – requires skills-based hiring for state classified positions.
- HB 4451 (Bhojani) – establishes a joint study between TWC and local workforce boards to increase the availability of apprenticeships in emerging and high-demand industries.
- HB 4410 (Dutton) – creates the Texas Commission on High School Outcomes.
- HB 4698 (Button) – enhances the quality and availability of state data measuring the childcare needs of Texas families.

87% of Texas voters agree that “community colleges should focus on offering course programs that match the needs of the local workforce.”
90% of Texas voters believe it is important “for the state to focus on increasing the number of credentials earned while students are still in high school.”
81% of Texas voters favor “providing financial incentives to Texas community colleges to focus on courses in career fields where students can earn a self-sustaining wage.”