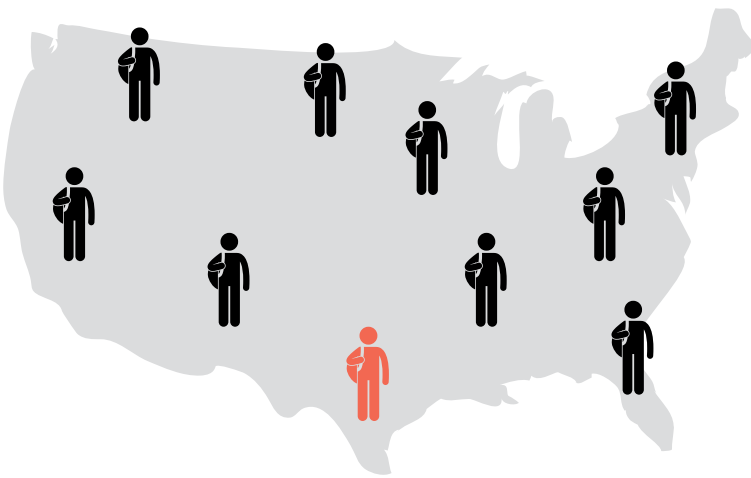


What's next for Texas graduates?

Texas' high school grads: Who are they?

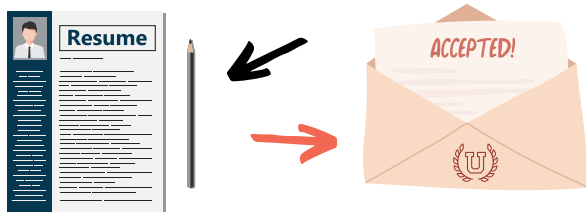


Texas is currently home to **one out of every 10 public high school students in the country**, 90% of whom are expected to graduate if past trends continue. With nearly 400,000 high school seniors, our state is doing its part in preparing the next generation of Americans.

Are graduates ready for what's next?

Despite that 90% graduation rate, many Texas students are simply **not career or college-ready** when they finish high school.

In 2022, only 69% of Texas high school seniors were considered college- or career-ready when they graduated high school.



What's the importance of postsecondary education?

In the most recent available data, only one out of every three high school graduates attained a postsecondary credential in Texas in the six years after graduation.

As an increasing number of jobs require postsecondary education and/or training — an estimated 72% of jobs nationwide by 2031 — this means that **for every high school graduating class, around 250,000 young adults will lack the postsecondary education necessary to compete for good jobs.**



What it means to get a "credential of value?"

All degrees are not created equal, and landing a good job doesn't come from getting just any degree or certificate. Students must understand what their options are, and what are the likely outcomes of their choices. This requires understanding which credentials are most in demand and are likely to lead to good-paying jobs.

We call these a "credential of value."

"Credentials of value" are those that **equip students for strong career trajectories**; improve their earnings opportunities; align with high-demand jobs offered by Texas employers; and **provide a typical student holding that credential with enough earnings within 10 years** to pay for the cost of their education and surpass the earnings of a typical high school graduate.



Some university degrees have high ROI, but credentials of value come in all shapes and sizes.



One study found that while **95% of engineering programs will produce median earnings above \$80,000 per year by the time their graduates reach mid-career**, it is unlikely that graduates of psychology, arts, music, philosophy, religion, or education programs will see mid-career annual earnings of \$80,000 or more.

Did you know?

The U.S. faces a massive shortage of qualified applicants for skilled trades. **How much?**



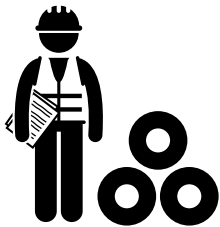
550,000

That's how many plumbers the U.S. is expected to be short of in 2027.



735,000

Openings for electricians through 2032. Employment of electricians is projected to grow twice as fast as the average for all occupations.



3.8 million

The estimated net need for new employees in manufacturing between 2024 and 2033.

Fun fact:

Dallas-area campuses Allen High School and Plano West Senior High School had the **largest graduating classes in 2022**. Allen had 1,685 graduates and Plano West at 1,308, according to Texas Education Agency data.



What we're doing to ensure more students can earn family-sustaining wages.

From day one, Texas 2036 has been dedicated to ensuring **all Texans have access to the knowledge, skills and credentials that can lead to jobs that will support their families.**

Our work in support of House Bill 3767 (87-R), which defines a self-sufficient wage as the "minimum employment earnings necessary to meet a family's basic needs while also maintaining self-sufficiency," helped create a shared goal between state agencies and align career education and training programs to this standard.

And our work in support of HB 8 last year is ensuring community college funding is better aligned with the high-wage, high-demand jobs of the future.

How are we preparing for the 2025 Texas Legislature?



As we prepare for the coming Texas legislative session, our focus continues to be on **improving workforce readiness** and **increasing access to "credentials of value"** through:

- Bridging classroom to career by improving high school credential attainment while maintaining, or even improving, rigor.
- Ensuring that "credentials of value" are determined by meaningful metrics and quality data.
- More efficiently using existing funding streams to improve workforce programming.
- Better delivering education and workforce programs in high-demand industries to those Texans in most need of better economic opportunities.

"Today's graduates across our state are taking their first steps as adults towards being the extraordinary leaders and contributors of tomorrow. Texas 2036 will be right there alongside them as we work together to make Texas the best state to live and work and seize new opportunities for this generation — and generations to come."

David Leebron

Former president of Rice University and incoming president and CEO of Texas 2036

