

May 19, 2025

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: In support of Senate Bill 1786 (Sen. Creighton / Rep. VanDeaver)

Dear Governor Abbott,

The Commit Partnership and the **20** organizations undersigned write to express our support for Senate Bill 1786 (89R; Sen. Creighton / Rep. VanDeaver).

Under your leadership, House Bill 8 (88R) made a historic investment in community colleges last legislative session and reimaged community college finance to better align with strong student outcomes and employer needs. As a result, community colleges across the state have made innovative investments to better serve students and strengthen the workforce of Texas.

SB 1786 builds on the momentum of HB 8 (88R) by ensuring more Texans can earn credentials that lead to high-demand, high-wage careers. As Texas continues to lead the nation in job growth, it is critical that we better align education and workforce systems with industry needs to prepare students with the skills they need to earn self-sufficient wages. Community colleges play a vital role in this effort, enrolling 43% of higher education students and awarding the vast majority of career and technical education credentials statewide.¹ [As you declared career education as an emergency item this session](#), SB 1786 builds upon that through the following key provisions:

- **Expanding FAST Access:** The bill broadens eligibility for the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program, allowing more economically disadvantaged students to participate in high-quality dual credit opportunities that build momentum toward college and career.
- **Strengthening Transfer Pathways:** SB 1786 recognizes student success across all sectors of higher education by ensuring that performance funding accounts for all transfer students' outcomes, including those who transfer to private and independent universities in Texas.
- **Refining Credentials of Value:** By supporting the continued refinement of how Texas defines and rewards credentials of value, SB 1786 ensures students are earning qualifications that lead to high-demand and high-wage jobs.
- **Improving Workforce Alignment Through Better Data:** The bill enhances collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission to improve employment and earnings data, allowing institutions to respond more effectively to regional labor needs.
- **Coordinating CTE Grants:** SB 1786 calls for stronger Tri-Agency coordination on career and technical education grant programs to prioritize alignment with postsecondary career pathways and attainment of credentials of value.

¹ Preliminary Enrollment Report THECB - Available for October Board Meeting.



Every student. Every opportunity.

Not only are these policy solutions data-driven, but they also have overwhelming public support—92% of Texas voters agree that investing in community colleges is essential as student outcomes improve.² We respectfully encourage you to sign Senate Bill 1786 into law as it represents the next step in Texas' commitment to preparing our students for the future and sustaining our state's economic competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Katrina Fraser

Director of Postsecondary Education and Workforce Policy

The Commit Partnership

Supporting Organizations:



Texas Association of
Community Colleges



EDUCATE TEXAS
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS



² Commit Statewide Poll, Nov. 2024