

From the High School Classroom to a Good Career & Economic Mobility

TX2036

Key bills position Texas as national leader in modernizing high school

Texas Students Need More Paths to Good Paying Jobs



By 2031, **63% of jobs will require a postsecondary degree or credential**, but only 36% of Texas high school students go on to earn a degree or credential within six years of graduating.



Texas needs to **increase access to workforce credentials in high school**, so that students can find a good job regardless of whether they choose to pursue a college degree.



This session Texas invested millions in scaling career-aligned high schools across the state, particularly in rural areas and realigning the goals of the public education system toward **preparing students for life after high school**.

The 2025 Texas Legislature Advanced Nation-Leading Policies to Prepare High School Students for the Jobs of Tomorrow

Redefining the Goals of High School in Texas Toward Future Readiness

HB 2 by Rep. Buckley & Sen. Creighton

HB 120 by Rep. K. Bell & Sen. Schwertner

For the first time, the Texas Legislature has established the standard by which success for high school will be determined, creating **two new goals** for every high school student:

- **New Goal 1 - Career Readiness for All**
Students who graduate from Texas high schools will have the skills and credentials necessary to **immediately enter this state's workforce**, and
- **New Goal 2 - True Postsecondary Readiness**
Students who graduate from Texas high schools and who elect to pursue postsecondary education will be **ready for postsecondary coursework without the need for remediation**.

Aligning Dual Credit with Local Career Opportunities

SB 1786 by Sen. Creighton &

Rep. VanDeaver

Building on comprehensive community college reforms from 2023, the Legislature refined “credential of value” definitions to add rigor, with a focus on student economic mobility. In addition, the legislation seeks to:

- **Better align program** offerings with local labor market needs
- **Improve data quality** to provide transparency over program outcomes
- **Streamline state funding** to support dual credit programs and CTE grants

Providing Better Career & Outcomes Information for Students

HB 2 & HB 120 (cont.)

Texas students have more and more options for high school coursework. But, students and counsellors have no information on the outcomes of particular programs. Thanks to new legislation, **high schoolers will now be given information on the career, college and wage outcomes** of students from their high school according to the courses and programs they took while in high school.

Expanding & Funding Career-Aligned High Schools

HB 2 & HB 120 (cont.)

Texas passed legislation expanding access to innovative high school models with proven track records of getting students ready for high-demand careers. Through **tripling funding** for P-TECH programs, **quadrupling funding** for R-PEP programs, and **providing grants** to school districts to stand up these programs Texas is on track to dramatically expand career-aligned high schools across the state.

For questions,
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