

Building a Talent Strong Texas: 2025 Update

In the three years since Building a Talent Strong Texas has served as the state's higher education strategic plan, Texas has continued to write its economic success story. We are now the eighth-largest economy in the world. More Texans earn degrees, certificates, and credentials than ever before. And we lead the nation in undergraduate and graduate enrollment growth. This progress underscores a clear truth: **Texas's success is driven by its increasingly educated workforce.**

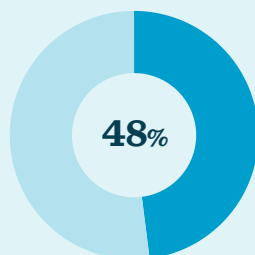
With five years until we are due to meet our goals, we must continue building on this momentum. To do this, Texas higher education institutions need to continue expanding opportunities for all Texans to earn degrees, certificates, and other credentials. Specifically, the state must lead the nation in awarding credentials of value that offer purpose in the economy, value in the labor market, and opportunities for good jobs and meaningful careers.

Attainment of Postsecondary Credentials

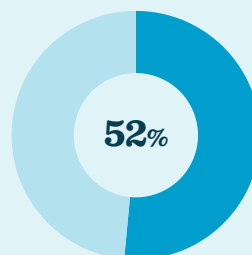
By expanding our attainment goals to include all working-age Texans, we will **increase employment opportunities and incomes** for individuals, **create a deeper talent pool** for employers, and **align skills with the jobs** our economy demands.

Indicator 1:

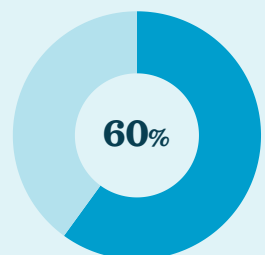
Texans ages **35-64** with a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary credential of value.



2019



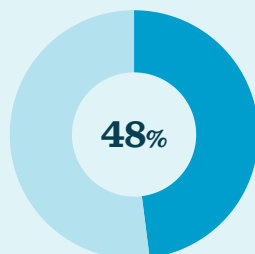
2022*



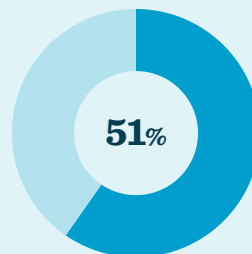
2030 Goal

Indicator 2:

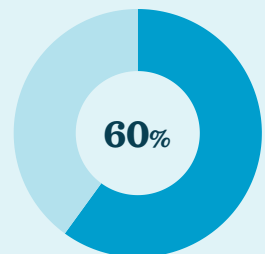
Texans ages **25-34** with a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary credential of value.



2019



2022



2030 Goal

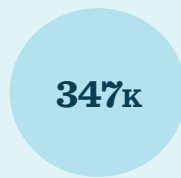
*Middle column includes data from most recent available year.

Postsecondary Credentials of Value

Credentials from Texas higher education institutions must equip graduates for **continued learning** and lasting, **successful careers with no or manageable student debt**.

Indicator 1:

Students completing postsecondary credentials of value each year.



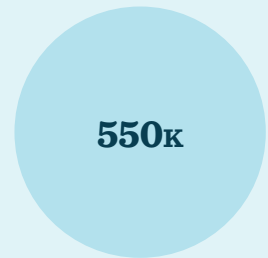
347k

2019



358k

2023

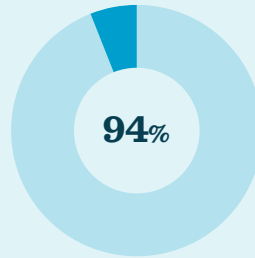


550k

2030 Goal

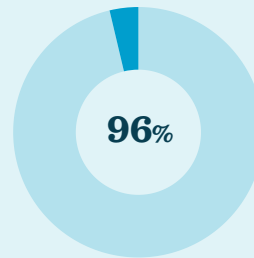
Indicator 2:

Percentage of graduates with no undergraduate student debt or manageable levels of debt in relation to their potential earnings.



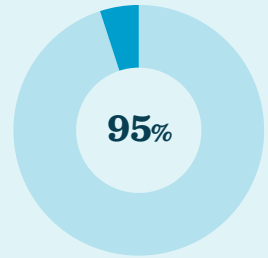
94%

2019



96%

2023



95%

2030 Goal

Research, Development, & Innovation

Texas must be a leading state in generating knowledge through basic and applied research and translating discoveries into innovations that **benefit individual Texans' lives** and **drive economic development**.

Indicator 1:

Annual private and federal research and development expenditures.



\$3.5
Billion

2019



\$4.2
Billion

2023



\$4.5
Billion

2030 Goal

Indicator 2:

Research doctorates awarded annually by Texas institutions of higher education.



5,400

2019



6,239

2023



7,500

2030 Goal

The path forward is clear: By helping more students graduate with credentials of value and by fostering innovation, we increase opportunities for all Texans and strengthen our state's future. *Building a Talent Strong Texas* requires collaboration between public and private sectors, with input from educators, leaders, policymakers, employers, and students.

We are committed to educating, graduating, and preparing more students for the workforce. By raising the bar and ensuring all Texans can participate in higher education, we will lead the nation – and shape a future where every Texan thrives.

**Texas Higher
Education
COORDINATING BOARD**