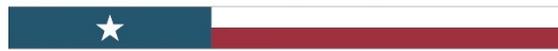


60x30TX



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Texas has become increasingly engaged in a global economy dependent on skilled and knowledgeable workers. Although Texas is improving at increasing college completions for students from groups that traditionally have not earned certificates or degrees in large numbers, the state has not improved quickly or broadly enough to keep up with changes in demographics.

The aim of the 60x30TX higher education strategic plan is to help all students achieve their educational goals and help Texas remain globally competitive for years to come, because higher education improves the lives of Texans.

The 60x30TX plan contains four broad goals. Each goal contains a set of targets that will move the state forward. Success in achieving the goals rests heavily on collaboration among higher education, K-12 education, and the workforce, as well as on the local creativity of Texas two- and four-year institutions.

The four goals in the 60x30TX Plan are essential to the future prosperity of Texas.



THE OVERARCHING GOAL: 60x30

At least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.

☒ *Supports the economic future of the state*



THE SECOND GOAL: COMPLETION

At least 550,000 students in 2030 will complete a certificate, associate, bachelor's, or master's from an institution of higher education in Texas.

☒ *Requires large increases among targeted groups*



THE THIRD GOAL: MARKETABLE SKILLS

All graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills.

☒ *Emphasizes the value of higher education in the workforce*



THE FOURTH GOAL: STUDENT DEBT

Undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions.

☒ *Helps students graduate with manageable debt*



The 60x30 goal is bold but achievable. It will translate into 2.7 million 25- to 34-year-old Texans who have certificates or degrees in 2030. The goal is interdependent with the state's economy because it takes into account both graduates of Texas institutions and the in-migration of new residents who hold certificates and degrees. Texas must have a vibrant and diversified economy to attract and retain credentialed workers to meet the 60x30 goal.



The completion goal pertains solely to credentials produced by Texas institutions of higher education, and applies to students of all ages. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics make clear that students don't get much of an economic lift from college attendance unless they complete a degree or undergraduate certificate. With the successful achievement of this goal, Texas will award 6.4 million certificates or degrees during the 15 years of the 60x30TX plan.



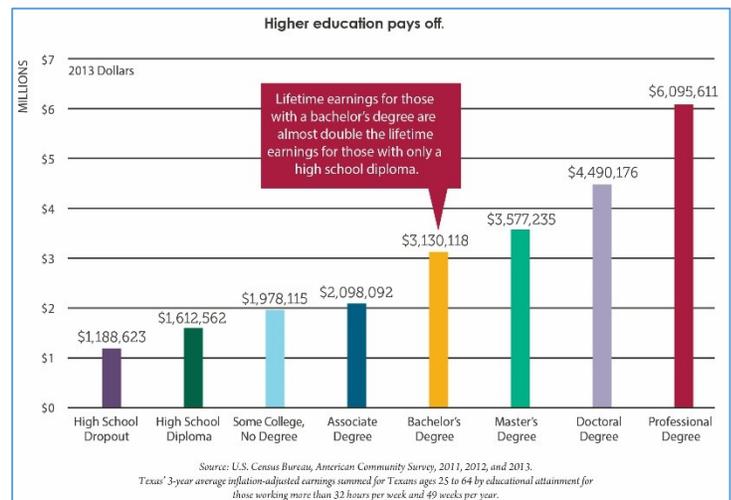
The marketable skills goal challenges institutions to think more explicitly about the programs they offer and the job skills that students learn within those programs, and enable students to articulate those skills to potential employers. Marketable skills are those valued by employers. They include interpersonal, cognitive and applied skill areas. They are primary or complementary to a major and are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.



The student debt goal addresses balancing and managing student loan debt. Texas has an opportunity to balance student loan debt and improve how higher education is financed to reduce financial barriers that students and families encounter when pursuing any level of higher education. Success will require collaboration among elected officials and higher education leaders, and will probably require imaginative reinvention of paths to completion, including methods for teaching and learning.

Why is it important to achieve the 60x30TX goals? Research shows that higher education pays off. Lifetime earnings for those with a postsecondary credential, whether it be a certificate, associates degree, bachelor's degree or beyond, increase significantly over those with only a high school diploma. Roadblocks must be intentionally removed to help smooth students' pathways to higher education because it benefits the individual, the state, the workforce, and society in measurable and specific ways that must be encouraged and strengthened.

Texas strives to be the best, enabling Texans to enjoy a future with increased incomes, opportunities and resources. The purpose of the 60x30TX plan is to take bold steps over the next 15 years to help Texas meet the needs of its workforce, communities and individuals.



"The strength of Texas' economy is our workforce, and a skilled and educated workforce gives Texas a competitive advantage ... Texas will be better because of our new focus on 60x30TX and our brightest years are yet to come."

- Gov. Greg Abbott



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