TEA Strategic Priorities and Enablers

Every child, prepared for success in college, a career, or the military

**Strategic priorities**

- **Recruit, support, and retain teachers and principals**
- **Build a foundation of reading and math**
- **Connect high school to career and college**
- **Improve low-performing schools**

**Enablers**

- **Increase transparency, fairness and rigor** in district and campus academic and financial performance
- **Ensure compliance, effectively implement legislation and inform policymakers**
- **Strengthen organizational foundations** (resource efficiency, culture, capabilities, partnerships)
After establishing its strategic priorities, the TEA was reorganized to execute on core initiatives supporting these priorities. The new College, Career, and Military Prep department now reports directly to the Deputy Commissioner of Academics.
High School Programs

**Priority:** Expand access to and improve the quality of dual-credit High School programs aligned to clearly defined, measurable outcomes.

- Early College High Schools
- T-STEM Academies
- P-TECH Academies
- Industry Clusty Innovation Academies
- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate
- TxCHSE (High School Equivalency)
Pathways

**Priority**: Create resources articulating career pathways aligned to state and regional industry skill needs, and facilitate the process for an accountability proposal and rules framework that rewards student attainment of high-demand industry-based certifications.

- Leadership of TEA’s work with the Tri-Agency Initiative
- Accountability rules framework under Domain IV (CCR) + list of industry based certifications
- Resource development supporting broad access to career pathways, including a mobile app for students and parents
- College and career counseling
- Focus on helping districts realize the potential of HB 5 and related legislation
Career & Technical Education

Priority: Create resources, incentives, and policies that will help districts and schools provide high quality CTE programs aligned to industry-needs and higher wage job opportunities.

- Implementation of Perkins Grant reauthorization, including an update of the Perkins list of certifications
- Consolidation & standardization of existing CTE resources
- Creation and curation of new CTE resources
- Research & development into industry needs (statewide and regional) to support high-demand certification offerings
- Create grant and technical assistance opportunities to support high-quality programs and align them to industry needs
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Industry-based Certifications and Accountability

House Bill 2804 (84th Texas Legislature, 2015) requires the state to include the percentage of students who earn an industry certification in Domain 4 (College and Career Readiness). In 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 74.14 (e) (2), this certification is defined as

... an industry validated credential that complies with knowledge and skills standards promulgated by a nationally or internationally recognized business, industry, professional, or government entity representing a particular profession or occupation that is issued by or endorsed by:

(A) a national or international business, industry, or professional organization;
(B) a state agency or other government entity; or
(C) a state-based industry association.
The Process and Draft Timeline

**Sept. – Dec. 2016**
Collection of Certifications Offered
- Perkins List
- Additional Certifications
- Initial List Created
- Rules Framework Drafted

**Jan. – Apr. 2017**
Review of Initial List by Stakeholders
- Initial List and Draft Rules Framework with Criteria for Eligibility Published
- Feedback from Industry Clusters, Districts, and Higher Ed

**May – June 2016**
Finalization of List for 2017-18
- Rules Finalized
- List Incorporated into Accountability System
- Annual Review of List Going Forward