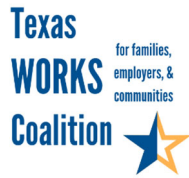


Key Wins from the 87th Regular Session

Pathways to College & Career/Adult Education and Literacy



- The budget **fully funds HB 3**—the 2019 school finance bill; includes additional **\$468 million in formula funding based on changes in certain student weights for K-12** (from HB 1525); **funds higher enrollment growth** (\$486 million); and includes **\$110 million additional funding for higher ed financial aid programs**.
- **SB 1102 by Sen. Creighton** creates the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Initiative.
- **SB 1277 by West** requires the Texas Higher Ed. Coordinating Board (THECB) to report student loan data and that it be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, degree, type, and enrollment status in its annual financial aid report.
- **SB 1615 by Sen. Bettencourt** establishes the Texas Commission on Community College Finance.
- **HB 30 by Rep. Talarico** requires Windham School District to provide an educational program for incarcerated minors that meets requirements for a high school diploma or that prepares people for the high school equivalency exam.
- **HB 33 by Rep. Dominguez** ensures students in dual credit courses receive early academic advising.
- **HB 1247 by Rep. Lozano** requires the development of a tri-agency work-based learning strategic framework and report.
- **HB 1799 by Rep. Button** expands the adult high school diploma charter school program.
- **HB 2352 by Rep. Parker** supports educational and vocational training pilot program for certain state jail felony defendants and certain inmates released on parole.
- **HB 3767 by Rep. Murphy**—Texas Education and Workforce Alignment Act—requires Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to collaborate on state workforce goals, designate career pathways, and modernize data systems.

Bridging the Digital Divide through Digital Equity & Inclusion

- The budget includes **three budget riders in Article VII (TWC) focused on strengthening digital skill building, access to devices, etc.**; provides **\$3.75 million to Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to support digital inclusion and workforce initiatives**; and directs **\$390 million in federal funds to reimburse schools for technology purchases and \$8 million for schools to support at-home broadband for students**
- **HB 5 by Rep. Ashby** creates a state broadband office (based in the Comptroller's office), state broadband plan, and grant program to improve broadband infrastructure and address digital access and use in communities across the state. The bill language includes UWT championed language related to digital inclusion (access, adoption, and use of broadband & technologies).
- **HB 1525 by Rep. Huberty** requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to provide broadband technical support and allows districts to use the Technology Instructional Materials Allotment to cover costs associated with distance learning.

Child and Dependent Care

- **SB 1555 by Sen. Zaffirini** ensures federal funds that support childcare are equitably distributed to programs serving infants and toddlers.
- **HB 619 by Rep. S. Thompson** requires the development of a strategic plan to support the child-care workforce.
- **HB 1792 by Rep. Button** strengthens Texas Rising Star by consolidating the certification process, ensuring the monitoring of programs is fair, consistent, and reliable across the state.
- **HB 2607 by Rep. Talarico** ensures that childcare subsidy providers participate in Texas Rising Star through a phased approach. It ensures that public funds go to programs that commit to safe and quality care.

Health

- The budget includes **\$8.4 billion in behavioral health funding across 25 state agencies**, including a **\$10 Million increase in funding for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium**.
- **HB 4 by Rep. Price** makes permanent some pandemic-related telehealth changes.

- **HB 290 by Rep. Cortez** (passed as a provision of HB 2658) allows eligible children to remain enrolled in Medicaid insurance by reducing inaccurate mid-year eligibility reviews.
- **HB 133 by Rep. Rose** bill extends postpartum Medicaid insurance coverage to cover six months rather than two months.
- **SB 179 by Sen. Lucio** ensures school counselors spend more time supporting students and addressing mental health needs.

Housing and Transportation

- **HB 707 by Rep. Blanco** relating to a study on expanding recovery housing in this state.
- **HB 531 by Rep. Walle** requires flooding disclosures for rental property owners.
- **HB 1558 by Rep. Button** requires the state's ranking system to grant bonus points to properties that provide a leasing preference to low-income veterans and that are located no more than 2 miles from a veteran's hospital.

Safety Net

- The budget **maintains 2020-21 funding levels for Texans Feeding Texans Programs**, which includes **\$19.7 million for the Home Delivered Meals program** and **\$10.2 million for the Surplus Agricultural Products Grant Program** and **\$8 million for employer and community-based partnerships** to support an employment program at the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
- **SB 224 by Sen. Perry**—the Senior SNAP bill—simplifies the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application and recertification process for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Other Barriers

- **SB 2054 by Sen. Menendez** helps youth experiencing homelessness or in foster care pay for driver's education and access cars for driving tests.
- **HB 757 by Rep. Dutton** prohibits deferred adjudications which resulted in a deferral and dismissal, subject to certain conditions, from being used to deny, suspend, or revoke professional or occupational licenses or certificates of an individual otherwise entitled to or qualified for the license or certificate.
- **SB 181 by Sen. Johnson** revises laws automatically suspending a person's driver's license upon conviction of certain drug offenses to provide certain discretion and would amend the educational program for people with suspended licenses.
- Efforts to expand high-cost lending and preempt payday and auto title lending ordinances successfully killed.