STATE GOVERNANCE OF LEARNER PATHWAYS

Texas

The Tri-Agency Model

In March 2016, Governor Greg Abbott established the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative, which tasked the commissioners of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and Texas Workforce Commission to strengthen the state’s education to workforce talent pipeline. In 2019, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3, which overhauled the state’s school finance model and placed a greater focus on learner outcomes aligned with business and industry needs. Governor Abbott charged the Initiative and its commissioners with leading the implementation of the legislation and addressing the following learner pathway priorities: readiness, completion, transitions, upskilling, educator pipeline, partnerships and infrastructure.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

• The commissioners of TEA, THECB and TWC report either directly to the governor or a board whose members are appointed by the governor (THECB)

• The Tri-Agency Initiative implements both a set of formal charges that are handed down by the governor as well as a slate of legislative-mandated actions

• In 2021, the Texas legislature codified the Initiative as a formal structure and required the agencies to establish interagency agreements that prioritize shared policies, procedures and data-sharing

KEY ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

• Establish, monitor and update the state workforce development goals and strategies

• Ensure Texas can meet its state attainment goal 60X30 Texas, which states that 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a degree, certificate, or other post-secondary credential of value by 2030

• Define and promote credentials of value for all education and training providers