



TALKING POINTS
TAWB 2014 Education Paper

- The **Texas Association of Workforce Boards (TAWB)** is an association of Texas' 28 local workforce boards.
- Local workforce board members represent more than 740 businesses, organizations and public entities across Texas.
- The TAWB Education Paper ***"The Workforce in Texas: Aligning Education to Meet the Needs of Texas Employers"*** makes recommendations on education and training from the perspective of Texas employers to ensure a future workforce ready to meet the needs of employers and grow the state's economy.
- Texas' demographics are changing rapidly, intensifying our challenges in preparing our workforce.
- The skill and ability levels needed by our employers also are rapidly changing and there is an existing skills gap between available jobs and our workforce that will only grow worse as time passes.
- Texas education attainment currently lags behind most other states in people 25 and over completing high school or GED and in percent of population who have completed a bachelor's degree.
- Nearly 20% of Texans currently do not have a high school diploma or GED
- By 2020 over 60% of all jobs will require at least a 2-year degree or equivalent technical training, or a 4-year degree.
- These indicators lead TAWB to conclude that Texas has an opportunity to make changes in the K-12 educational system by implementing a Pre-K Jobs Model and Business Driven Education System.
- The Pre-K to Jobs Model includes increasing teacher quality and providing all students with information on career paths.
- A Business Driven Education System includes forming partnerships between business and education, developing industry pipelines relevant to region.
- We must stop focusing on high school graduation as the start and end point for the training of our emerging workforce.
- If we don't do anything to change the system to meet employers' needs, many jobs will be unfilled because of a lack of skilled workers.
- TAWB believes adopting and implementing the recommendations in this paper would begin to address the fundamental need that Texas employers have today and increasingly will need in the future from a workforce if our economy is to prosper and grow: the graduation of youth with the academic skills, abilities and preparation needed for the future, whether in advanced education or the workforce.
- The choice of Workforce-Education-Business working together is a must—the time is now if we want to keep our competitive edge.