

ISSUE

- Create multiple pathways for high school graduation

PRIORITY

TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ASSIST YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE LUBBOCK AREA TO EMBRACE A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE, BEGINNING WITH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

CURRENT STATUS

- According to the ACT, only 19% of Texas high school graduates are college or career ready in English, mathematics, reading and science.
- At current pace, it will take 60 years to close the Texas K-8 achievement gap.
SOURCE: Texas Coalition of a Competitive WorkForce
- Almost 1/2 of Texas high school graduates require remedial education in college.
SOURCE: Texas Coalition of a Competitive WorkForce
- State demographer estimates a 12% decline in household income and 40% increase in poverty level by 2050.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Most nations set higher standards for high school graduation than U.S.
- 80% of new jobs require some post-secondary education or training. Unskilled jobs are terminal and don't pay a living wage.
- Multiple pathways to graduation should be a major goal for the state.
- Multiple pathways to graduation will provide the relevancy students need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support legislation that encourages flexible curriculums.
- Support legislation that aligns increased high school graduation rates with the College Readiness Standards.

OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

Raise Your Hand Texas, Texas Institute for Education Reform, Texas Coalition of a Competitive WorkForce