



EMERGENCY ITEM: EXPAND CAREER TRAINING

Governor Greg Abbott continues to work with the Texas Legislature to provide the education and training needed to develop a highly-skilled workforce and prepare Texans for in-demand, good-paying jobs.

Over the last two years, Governor Abbott:

- Awarded over \$15 million in Jobs and Education for Texans grants to support career training for high-demand industries
- Invested over \$638 million to provide more Texans with the opportunity to gain the skills needed for good-paying, high-demand jobs
- Provided over \$7 billion in 2024-2025 for career and technical education programs for middle and high school students, including high-demand industries such as plumbing, electrical, and welding
- Expanded workforce opportunities by creating the Rural Pathways Excellence Partnership and the Adult High School Charter Program

By 2030, more than 60% of jobs in Texas will require education or training beyond a high school diploma. However, less than 40% of Texas students are attaining a degree or workforce training within six years of graduating high school. More Texans need the skills that lead to a better job and a bigger paycheck.

Raya Rabold took welding in high school and continued her training through Texas State Technical College. She has had her work featured in the 'Yellowstone' TV show, and she is working to become a welding inspector, which earns as much as \$85,000 a year—and she's only 18 years old.

To prepare students for similar opportunities, Texas must require high schools to provide more career training programs so students can go from graduation directly into a good-paying job. This session, Governor Abbott will work with the Texas Legislature to:

- Expand high-demand career training programs by increasing funding for the Jobs and Education for Texans grant program, Pathways in Technology Early College high schools, dual credit, and other career education allotments
- Increase funding for the Rural Pathways Excellence Partnership program to support rural districts in expanding career training options for students and addressing regional workforce needs
- Provide career and technical education funding for students enrolled in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs
- Improve career advising and provide funding for career readiness assessments to ensure students are recommended courses best aligned with their career goals
- Invest in strategies to ensure students enter high school proficient in math and prepared to excel in career-aligned courses

BUILDING A STRONGER TEXAS