

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Abbott,
Lieutenant Governor Patrick
Speaker Straus of the House of Representatives
Members of the 85th Texas Legislature

From: Texas Education Agency

Date: November 30, 2016

RE: Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program

House Bill 3662, passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature added new section 29.922 to the Texas Education Code to establish the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program to provide selected school districts, public institutions of higher education, and private or independent institutions of higher education with the opportunity to establish innovative programs designed to prepare students for careers for which there is demand in this state; and use the results of those programs to inform the governor, legislature, and commissioner concerning methods for transforming public education and higher education in this state by improving student learning and career preparedness. To date, there have not been any participants.

The agency, through the state's pathways and Governor's tri-agency initiatives, is currently engaged in an effort to align and coordinate the various state endeavors to prepare students for careers for which there is demand in this state. It is anticipated that the goals of the workforce innovation needs program will be met through the current pathways work.