

Progress on Talent Strong Texas Metrics

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Recap of Talent Strong Texas Goals

Postsecondary Attainment

- 60% of Texans ages 25–64 will hold a degree, certificate, or other credential of value by 2030

Annual Credentials of Value

- 550,000 credentials of value awarded annually
- 95% of graduates with no or manageable undergraduate debt

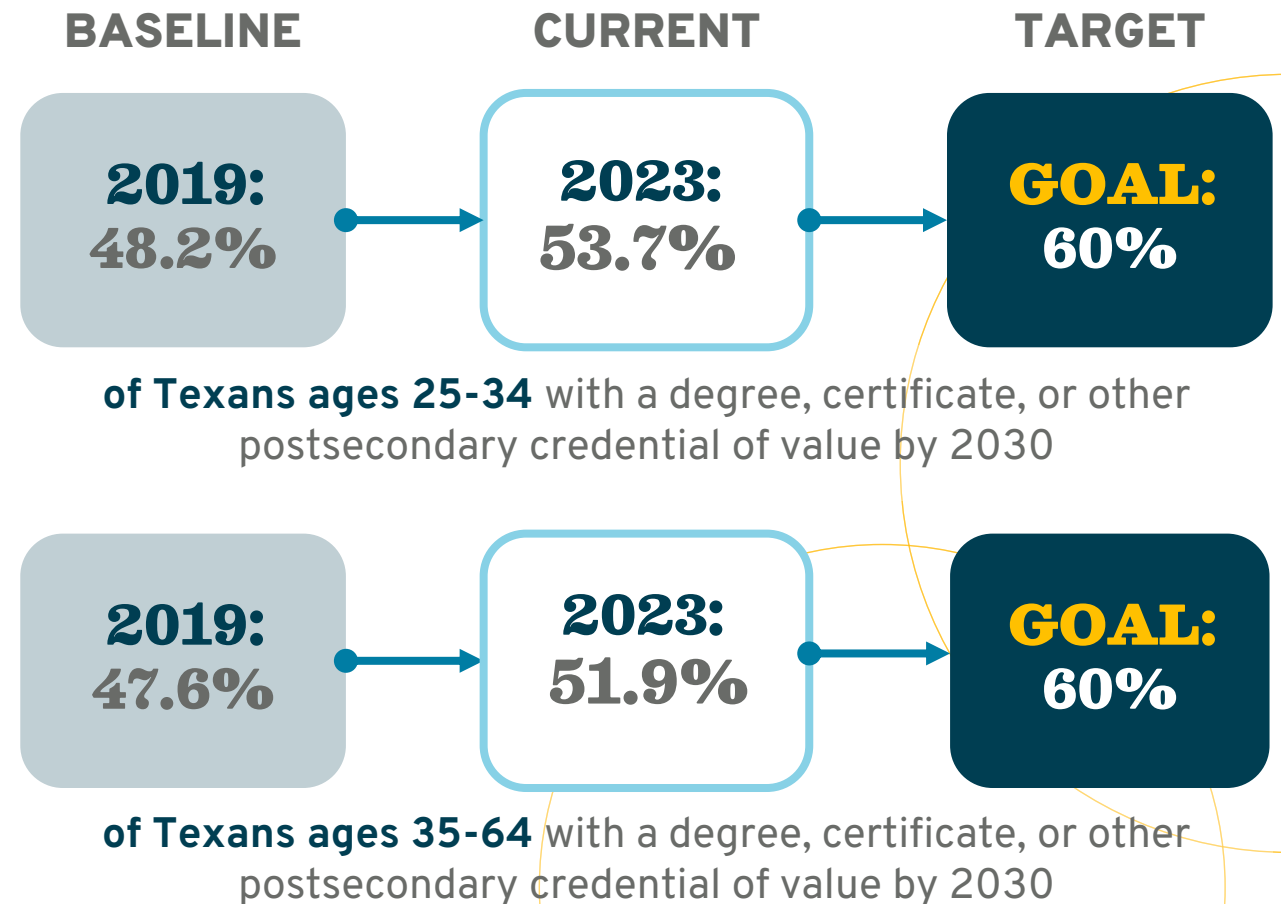
Research, Development & Innovation

- Increase annual private and federal R&D investment by \$1 billion
- Award 7,500 research doctorates annually from Texas institutions

Attainment of Postsecondary Credentials

By expanding our attainment goals to include working-age Texans, we will:

- Increase **employment opportunities and incomes** for individuals
- Create a **deeper talent pool** for employers
- **Align skills with the jobs** our economy demands



Credentials of Value

Primary Indicators for Credentials of Value

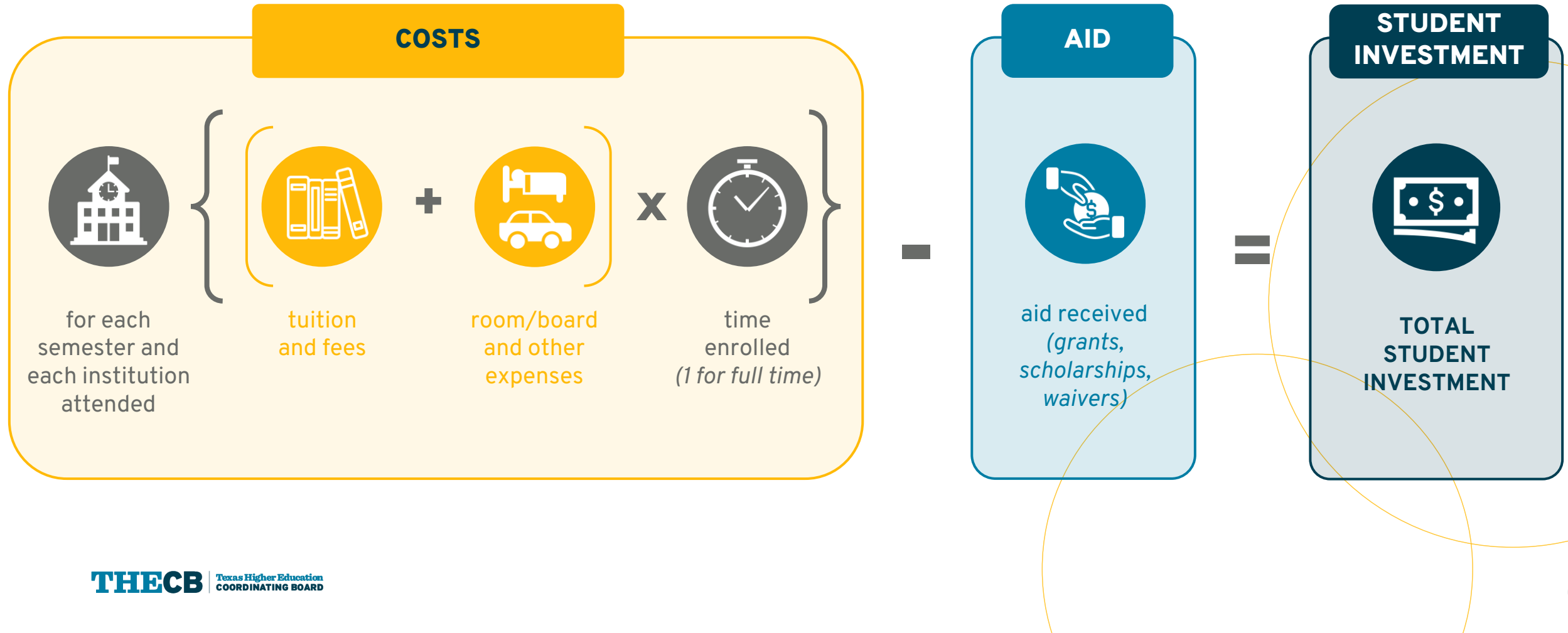
GOAL: 550K

Students completing postsecondary credentials of value each year.

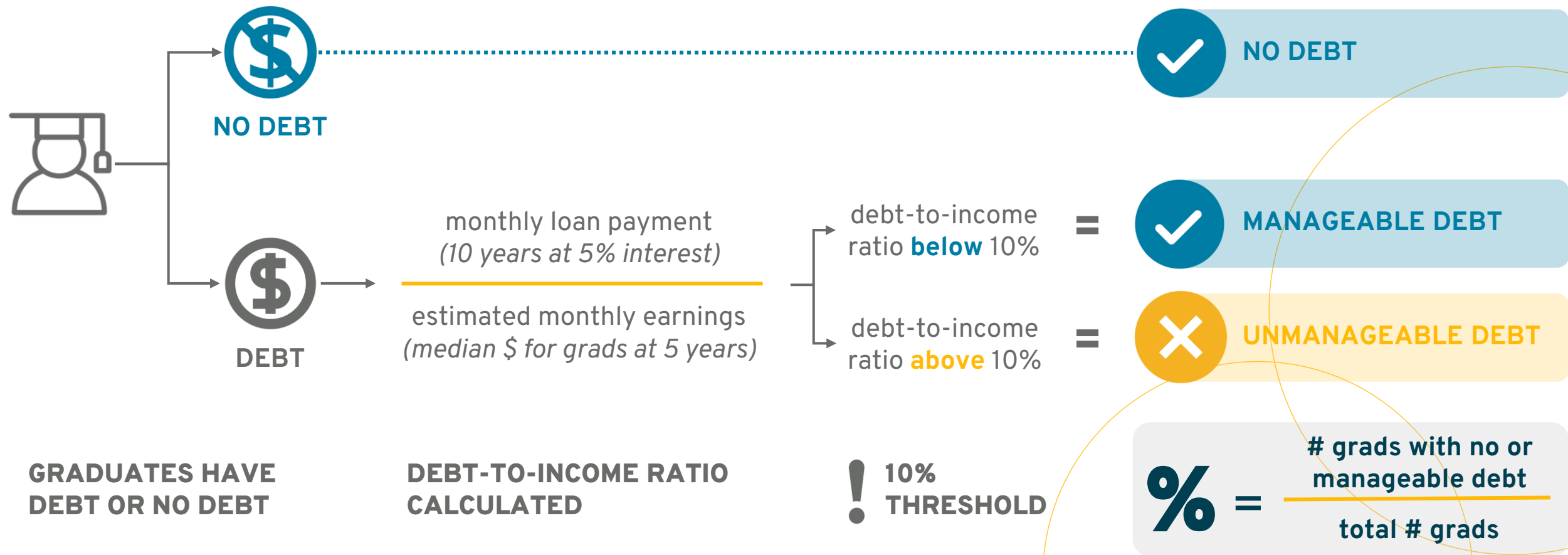
GOAL: 95%

Percentage of graduates with no undergraduate student debt or manageable levels of debt in relation to their potential earnings.

Determining credential value requires understanding student investment



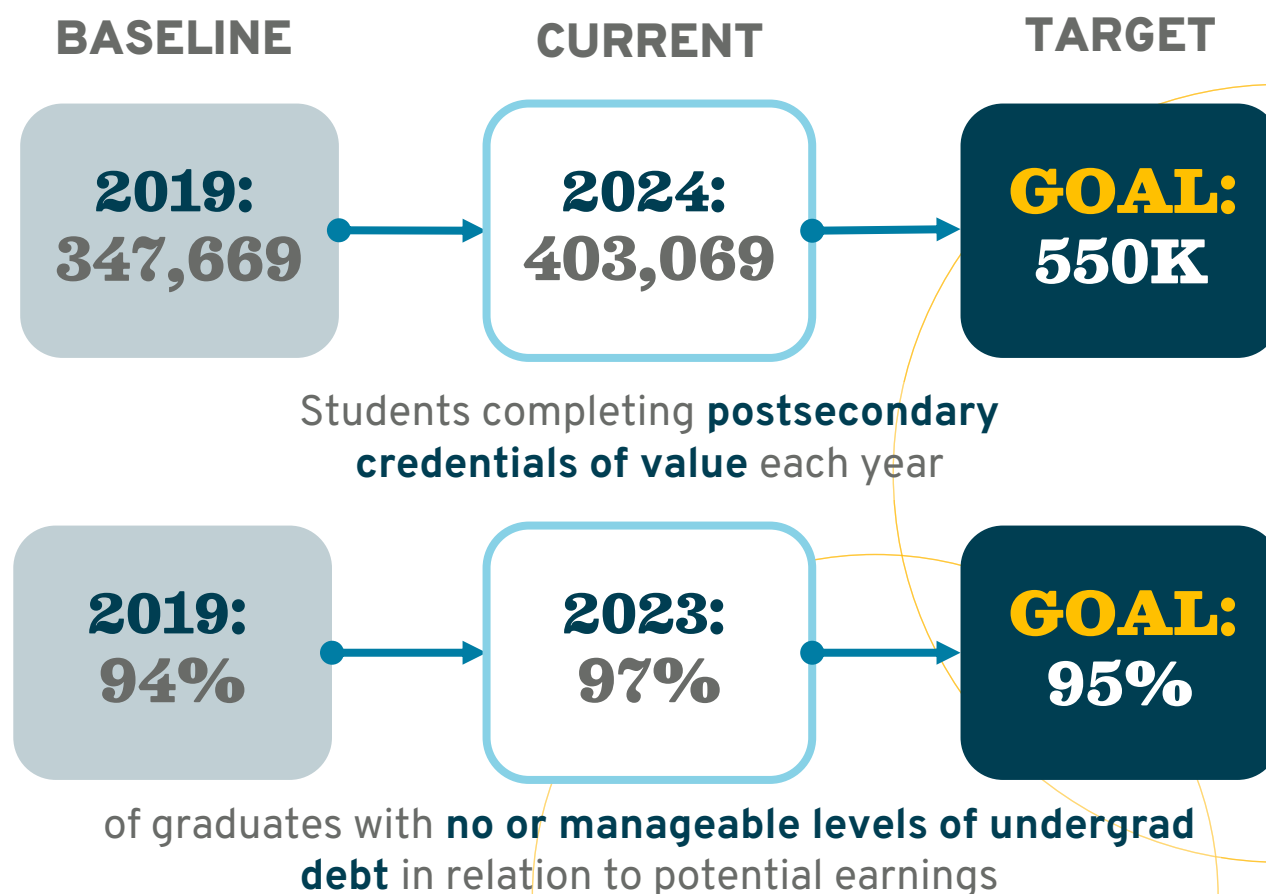
Desired student debt-to-income ratio is 10% or lower



Postsecondary Credentials of Value

Credentials from Texas institutions of higher education must provide a positive return on investment:

- Economic **benefits exceed the costs** to receive them
- **No debt or manageable student debt** in relation to potential earnings
- Programs help students progress efficiently towards completion and **align with career opportunities**

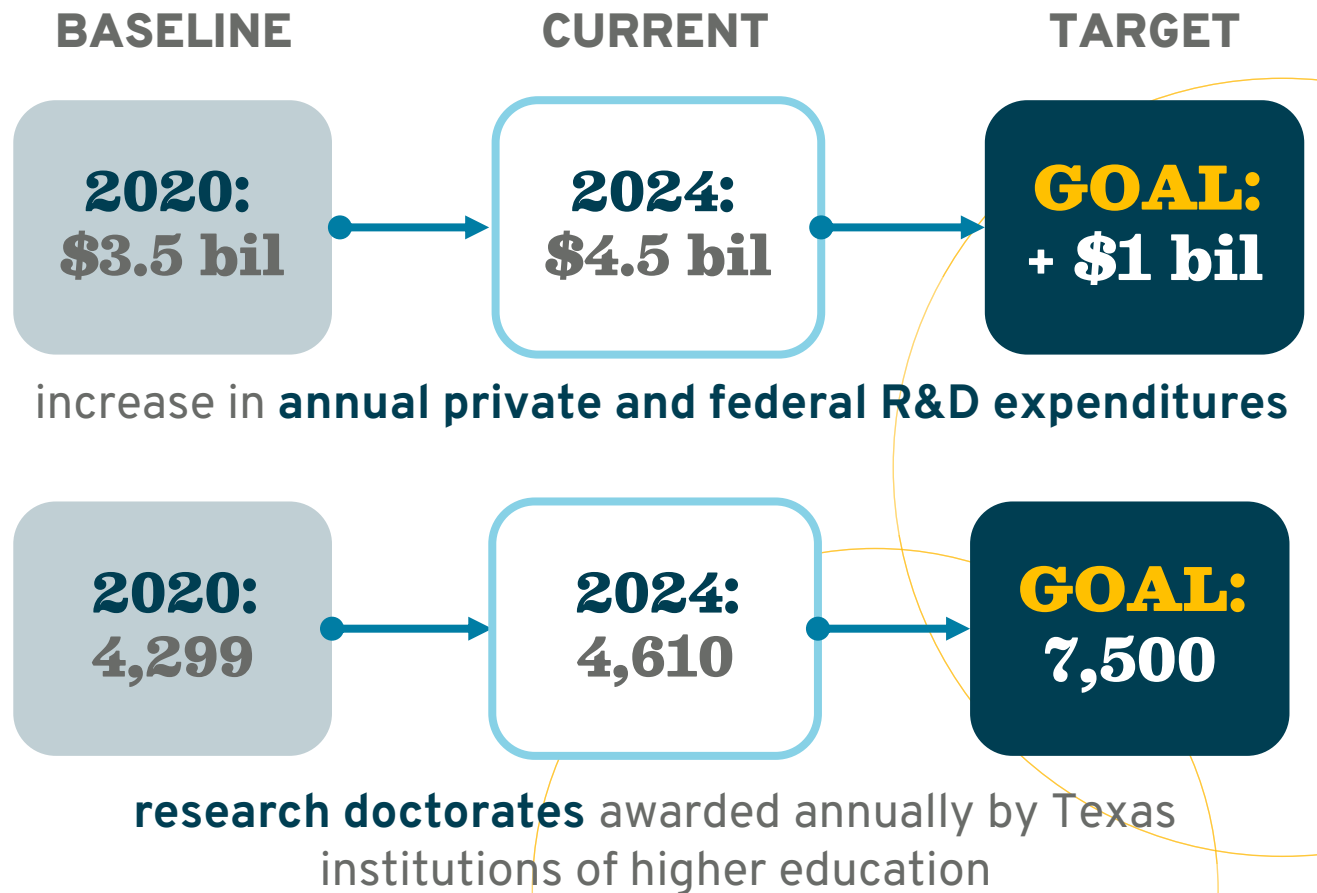


Research, Development & Innovation

Research, Development, and Innovation

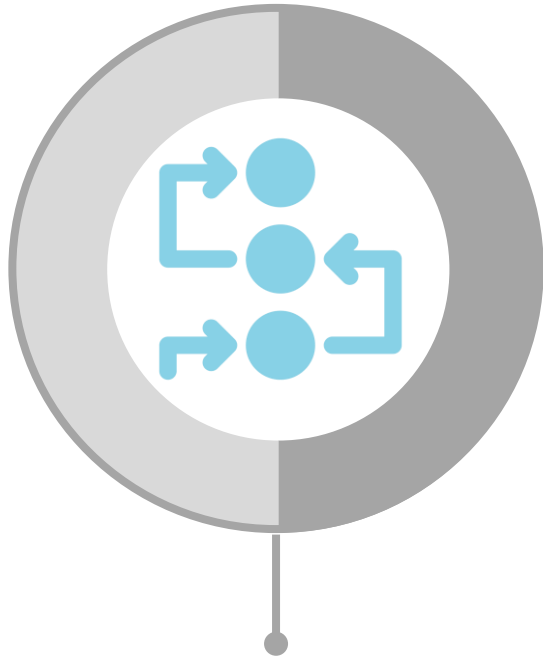
Advancing Texas' competitiveness in the global economy will require:

- Strengthening our state **R&D infrastructure**
- Translating discoveries into **innovations that benefit Texans**
- Driving **economic development** through job creation and support for local and regional economies



Policy Levers to Accelerate Progress

Building a Talent Strong Texas: Focus Areas for Continued Acceleration



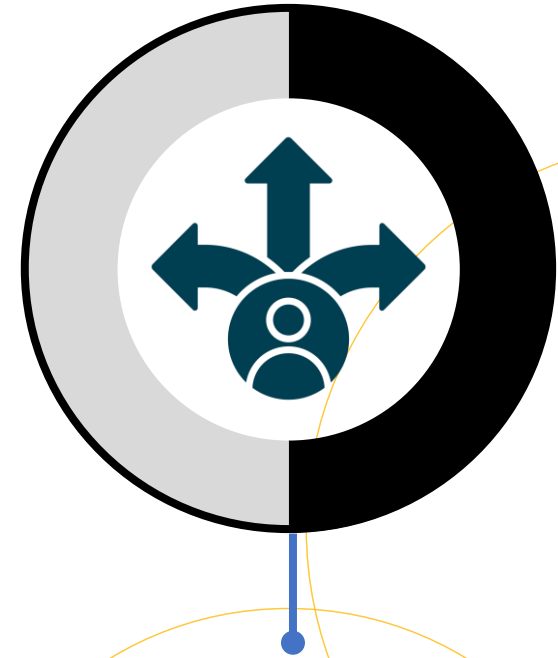
Strategic Planning

Assessing & aligning agency efforts toward attaining strategic plan goals



Legislative Initiatives

Supporting work aimed at improving outcomes & workforce readiness



Credential Attainment

Strengthening transfer, workforce, & other pathways leading to credentials of value

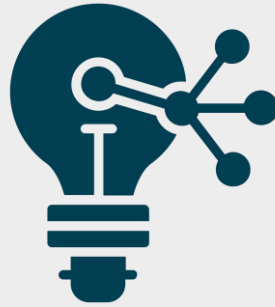
Sustaining Our Momentum: Support for THECB Exceptional Items



\$328 M

Student Financial Aid

Expanding student opportunity and increasing affordability through strategic investments



\$396 M

Research Initiatives

Advancing research programs at Texas public institutions of higher education



\$15 M

Technology Modernization

Partial restoration of base funding for ongoing technology modernization efforts

Student Financial Aid

Increased Portability & Predictability

\$328 M
in additional
financial support for
students across
Texas

Provide guaranteed state aid to eligible HS students who graduate in the top 25% of their class

Allow TEOG grant recipients at 2-year IHEs to continue receiving aid through the Texas Grant when transferring to a 4-year IHE

Maintain the current Texas Leadership Scholars Program cohort size at 300

Expand Texas Leadership Research Scholars to recruit more high-achieving doctoral students to Texas public institutions (2026: cohort of 100; 2027: cohort of 300)

Increase in maximum award for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program from \$15,000 to \$30,000

Expand access to financial aid by increasing the number of eligible students served by Texas Grants, TEG, and TEOG programs to 67.5%

Expanding Educational Opportunities **for** Texans



SB 2314

My Texas Future

Expands awareness and utilization of MTF & Direct Admissions, two tools designed to help make college and career pathways more accessible, navigable, and student-focused



SB 2231

Free College Application Week

Enables Texans to apply to any public college or university without paying an application fee, during the second full week in October, encouraging more students to take the first step towards higher education



SB 1786

Community College Finance

Continues to build outcomes-based funding by ensuring colleges are rewarded when students transfer to private Texas universities, defining credentials of value in statute, & establishing a wage threshold

Required Studies and Reports

SB 1241	Relating to college entrance examinations considered for admission to certain public institutions of higher education.
Section 60	Interim Study and Report on Performance-Based Funding and Removal of Institutional Enhancements for General Academic Institutions. (III-311)
SB 37	Curriculum advisory committee is charged with assessing and recommending how foundational (core/general education) courses are identified and recommending streamlined reductions in the number of such required courses, with a formal report due by December 1, 2026
HB 2856	Relating to a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the feasibility of implementing a statewide system for coordinating clinical training placements.
SB 3039	Report that evaluates actions to increase the number, success, and persistence of students who transfer to a general academic teaching institution from a public junior college.

89th Legislative Session

SB 1191	Mandates that the Texas Education Agency commissioner develop and require a uniform, state-standard method of calculating high school GPAs, giving equal extra weight to AP, IB, OnRamps dual-enrollment, and dual-credit courses—and obligates all school districts to use that method as soon as it's practicably implemented
HB 102	Requires Texas public colleges to offer early registration to ROTC, corps of cadets, and maritime academy students beginning spring 2026
SB 1786	Strengthens performance-based funding tied to credentials of value—defined as programs with positive ROI or leading to self-sufficient wages—and requires regional labor market assessments to align programs with workforce needs
SB 365	Expands the academic fresh start policy by allowing Texas public institutions to disregard coursework completed between 5 and 10 years before enrollment, requires each institution to publish and submit its fresh start policy to THECB
HB 4848	Requires each Texas public university system to ensure at least one institution offers competency-based baccalaureate degree programs in high-demand fields (as defined by THECB), caps total student cost at 50% of the average cost of attendance, and directs THECB to adjust that cap annually for inflation starting in 2027–28

Questions

The background of the image shows a woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored top, sitting at a desk and working on a laptop. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent dark blue overlay. Two thin yellow circular lines are positioned on the left and right sides of the image, partially overlapping the blue overlay. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

Texas Higher Education

COORDINATING BOARD