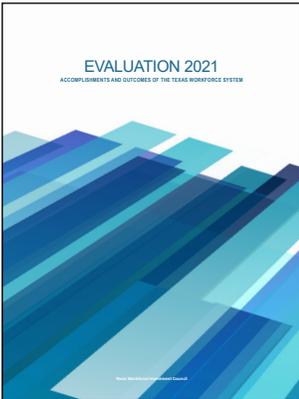


Evaluation 2021

Accomplishments and Outcomes of the Texas Workforce System



Texas workforce system partners work collaboratively to achieve success in a dynamic global economy. To that end, the Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council) publishes a report each year to evaluate the workforce system. *Evaluation 2021: Accomplishments and Outcomes of the Texas Workforce System* is the sixth report under the system strategic plan for fiscal years (FY) 2016–2023. The report uses a balanced scorecard framework to highlight performance outcomes of the Texas workforce system. The following summary provides an overview of the Council’s 2021 evaluation report.

Background

Texas Government Code specifies that the Council shall prepare an annual report for submission to the Governor and the legislature on the degree to which the system is achieving workforce goals and objectives. The report also evaluates partner agency alignment under the strategic plan for the the Texas workforce system. Approved by Governor Abbott, the Texas workforce system strategic plan focuses on high-level system objectives that require multi-partner collaboration for programs, initiatives, and outcomes. Reporting elements are designed to provide a system perspective of achievements for partner agencies and other system stakeholders, and to meet statutory requirements for reporting to the Governor and legislature.

Balanced Scorecard

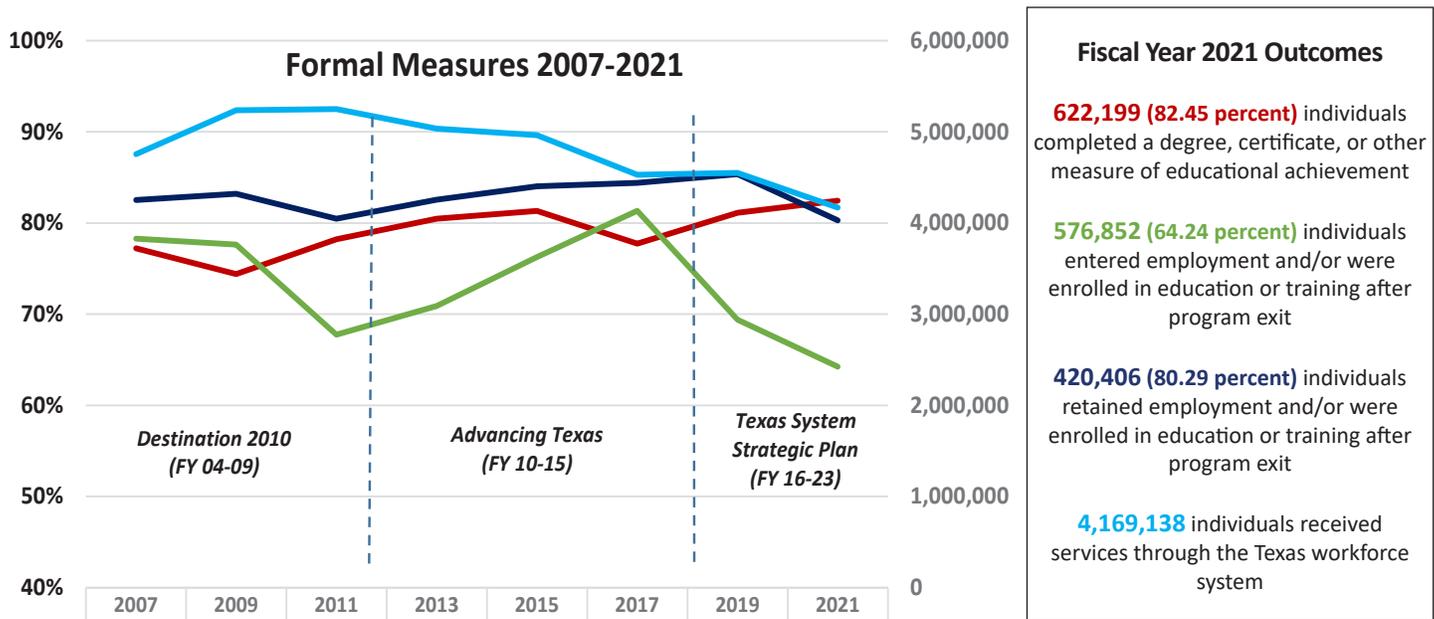
As part of the evaluation framework for the FY 2016–2023 strategic plan, a balanced scorecard was developed to complement the strategic plan’s structure. The scorecard incorporates narrative and graphics to illustrate the achievements of the Texas workforce system. The components of the balanced scorecard (at right) are intended to capture the actions of partner agencies and their delivery agents, including local workforce boards, independent school districts, community and technical colleges, and local adult education providers. These system partners are responsible for programs and services focused on education, workforce education, and workforce training services. The first scorecard (formal measures) is displayed on the next page, followed by descriptions of the remaining four scorecards (less formal measures).



Formal Measures

Formal measures establish responsibility for outcomes that are central to the workforce system’s success. Each formal measure is approved by the Governor and is required to be reported to the Council if it is determined to be a significant intended outcome for a workforce program. As required by statute, program-level data are submitted to the Council by six partner agencies for 23 programs. *Evaluation 2021* provides data for four formal measures: educational achievement, entered employment, employment retention, and customers served.

During the time period displayed on the following page, minor changes have occurred across programs over time. Many programs were affected by the pandemic during 2020, and that is reflected in many of the formal and less formal data sets provided by partner agencies. In FY 2021, state and local system partners served more than 4.1 million individuals through the delivery of workforce education and training programs. Of those participating in workforce system programs and services, more than 600,000 individuals completed a degree, certificate, or other measure of educational achievement. Nearly one million Texans who participated in a workforce program found a job, stayed in a job, and/or enrolled in further education or training.



Less Formal Measures

Less formal measures demonstrate the success of the workforce system strategic plan over time and may apply to some or all agency partners. *Evaluation 2021* provides relevant data for less formal measures organized by four goal areas: (1) focus on employers, (2) engage in partnerships, (3) align system elements, and (4) improve and integrate programs. Each goal area scorecard includes information on system objectives, partner strategies to address those objectives, and partner accomplishments in the past year. This year's scorecards also include action plan implementation reports from partner agencies.

Goal Area 1: Focus on Employers

By accessing critical education and labor data sets, employers can better find and plan for skilled workers to meet their needs in both the immediate timeframe and the future. Through greater engagement with employers, education and training providers can better design career and technical education content and delivery options that are more aligned with industry needs. Providers can make adjustments in program content to benefit employers and students, as well as address both state and regional economic needs.

Goal Area 2: Engage in Partnerships

Through collaborative and transparent processes, workforce system partners focus on outcomes that improve the employability of all program participants—from across a wide spectrum of capabilities and experiences—to meet employer needs. The leveraging of partnerships to enhance system alignment and outcomes depends on trust, a culture of collaboration both within and external to the workforce system, deep working relationships, and technical capacity to communicate to share needs, data, and information. Partnerships can provide for common planning, intake, and reporting on outcomes, as well as ensure a “no wrong door” approach to the provision of workforce programs and services.

Goal Area 3: Align System Elements

By improving transitions, aligning programs, and ensuring portability and transferability, Texas improves access and the ability of all participants to complete programs of study, earn credentials, transition to further education, and gain critical employability skills. Texas employers are better positioned to find and hire the employees they need through an enhanced education and training pipeline.

Goal Area 4: Improve and Integrate Programs

Accelerate employment and improve efficiencies through shared resources that can be leveraged to create new, relevant, and innovative opportunities that serve the needs of all stakeholders. By addressing high-priority programmatic needs through an integrated strategy, decision-making at the system, partner, and participant levels is improved and system service delivery is enhanced. The changing economic and educational landscapes provide opportunities to share relevant data through appropriate “push” mechanisms in an organized manner to key stakeholders who rely on information generated by system partners.