

**60x30TX: The Higher Education Strategic Plan for Texas**  
**Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**

In February 2014, the Commissioner of Higher Education formally appointed a committee to develop a new strategic plan for higher education in Texas. The intent was to develop a plan to replace the *Closing the Gaps* strategic plan adopted in 2000. To develop the proposal, Commissioner Paredes appointed a 17 member strategic planning committee that included former TTUS Board member and chair, Jerry Turner.

After a year of meetings and discussion, this committee submitted a draft strategic plan called **60x30TX**, and the THECB formally adopted the plan in July 2015. The Commissioner has been touring the State explaining the plan since that time; however the plan has not been formally reviewed by the state legislature.

The four goals for the **60x30TX** Strategic Plan:

1. By 2030, at least 60% of Texans age 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.
2. By 2030, at least 550,000 students in that year will complete a certificate, associate, bachelor's, or master's from an institution of higher education in Texas.
3. By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions will have completed programs with identified marketable skills.
4. By 2030, undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60% of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions.

Goal #1 addresses the issue of workforce needs and international competitiveness, and is specific to the 25-34 age group. This goal is considered the "overarching goal" for the **60x30TX** plan. Currently, only 35% of Texans age 25-34 have a college degree. Nationally, 42% in this age group have degrees with some states over 50%, and some countries over 50%, e.g. South Korea at 64%. The **60x30TX** goal is to increase this to 48% by 2020 and then to 60% by 2030.

Goal #2 is specific to institutions of higher education in Texas. Currently, Texas colleges and universities graduate about 300,000 students with a certificate or degree. In order to meet Goal #1, Texas institutions must do more to get students through to completion. The target for completions in 2020 is 376,000 and then to 550,000 by 2030.

Goal #3 is intended to incentivize colleges and universities to explicitly link curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities that make up a student's education to marketable skills required in the workforce. By 2020, all institutions of higher education are expected to have in place a process to identify marketable skills for each of their programs.

Goal #4 is intended to address the economic burden of student debt. Currently, student debt of graduates of Texas institutions is equal to about 60% of first-year wages. The goal is to keep this number from growing over the next 15 years through such strategies as institutional cost efficiencies, reducing time to degree by students, maintaining state funding support, and increasing financial aid.

The link to the complete **60x30TX** plan:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/6862.PDF>