

Strengthening Collaboration Between K-12 and Higher Education to Achieve the Goals of THECB's 60x30TX Strategic Plan

With the adoption by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) of its "60x30TX" Strategic Plan, the higher education board and its staff acknowledge the importance of an enhanced partnership with TEA to ensure Texas' public high school students are prepared to enter college. Donna Bahorich, Chair of the Texas State Board of Education, provided a brief video as an example of the impact of technology & how it can be used to improve the teaching/learning experience (**See Attachment**). Ms. Bahorich specifically cited three examples of actions underway by SBOE & TEA focusing on improvements: (1) Review of Curriculum Standards (involving over 800 individuals, including higher education faculty), (2) Review of Textbooks (creation of a publicly available portal for review & input); and (3) Regional Roundtables for input. While acknowledging his brief tenure of two weeks as the recently appointed TEA Commissioner, Mike Morath identified 4 items as critically important: (1) Teacher Training Programs need to be improved. He cited a concern for deviation of expertise of newly prepared teachers even from the same "provider." Mr. Morath called for improved feedback systems to individual teacher prep programs and better & earlier "clinical experiences" with individual master teachers; (2) TEA's Accountability System needs to be better aligned to address the goals of THECB's 60x30TX Strategic Plan; (3) Career/Technical Education Options need to be improved through proper sequencing, and (4) Morath anticipates even more expansion of both Dual Credit & Early College H.S. so he recognizes the need for collaboration between TEA & THECB.