



Robert Scott
Commissioner of Education
Texas Education Agency



Raymund A. Paredes
Commissioner of Higher Education
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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Dear Colleagues:

The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that 90 percent of 21st-century skilled workforce jobs will require some form of post-secondary education. As concerned educators, parents and citizens, we must ensure every child within our respective regions graduates from high school college and career ready, equally prepared to meet the challenges of a college curriculum or the demands of an increasingly knowledge-based workforce.

Texas has recognized the need to dramatically increase the levels of expectation and achievement for its students by recently adopting College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) in the critical areas of English/language arts, social sciences, mathematics, and science. Once fully implemented, the CCRS will pave the way to better alignment between public and higher education curriculum, thereby allowing students a more seamless transition between high school and college or the skilled workforce.

Texas is now among the first states in the country to implement such standards. Getting here is a result of very deliberate action taken by state leaders. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Education Agency began with a mandate from the Texas Legislature to oversee the creation of the CCRS. The hard work and dedication of subject matter experts led to the creation of these ground-breaking standards.

We are pleased that the South Plains Closing the Gaps P-20 Council, the regional council serving Region 17 Education Service Center, is planning a **College and Career Readiness Standards Summit on August 10**. Registration costs will be covered by the Council.

We must work together to ensure teachers as well as students will be ready to meet the challenges of the CCRS. This is a great opportunity to move the CCRS initiative forward. Information about the Summit is enclosed.

Thank you for all you do for the students of Texas.

Sincerely,

Raymund A. Paredes
Commissioner of Higher Education
Enclosure

Robert Scott
Commissioner of Education

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