



# TEXAS REGIONAL PATHWAYS NETWORK

## KEY COMPONENT

# Links Between Secondary and Postsecondary Education



## What It Is

- Pathways increase postsecondary attainment by bringing opportunities to earn rigorous postsecondary credit and credentials into secondary education.
- High school and postsecondary curricula are aligned and educators plan for articulation and transferability.

## Why It Matters

- Students often find the transitions from secondary to postsecondary education challenging or unclear, leading to low postsecondary enrollment and completion rates—even though the majority of jobs in Texas require postsecondary certificates or degrees.
- Students who are unable to transfer credits between educational institutions are at increased risk of failing to complete postsecondary credentials.
- Pathways address the growing affordability challenge in postsecondary education by allowing students to earn credits and credentials at little or no cost.

## What It Looks Like

- Students progress through seamlessly connected secondary and postsecondary programs of study and degree plans.
- Bridge programs and transfer and articulation agreements provide structures that enable students to navigate transitions between institutions without running into dead ends.
- Developmental education, co-requisite remediation, and acceleration strategies support students and increase postsecondary credit attainment.

## Stakeholder Roles

- **Secondary and postsecondary educators** collaborate on the design of aligned programs of study and degree plans that incorporate opportunities for students to earn dual credit and appropriate developmental education strategies.
- **Postsecondary educators** develop bridge programs and transfer and articulation agreements that create connections that are transparent to students.

