



2021 LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

The Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED) is a business and community-led nonprofit focused on increasing the number of high-performing seats in El Paso's public education system. CREEED advocates for improving student outcomes and invests in initiatives that increase postsecondary attainment for all students and equips them for the 21st century workforce.

CREEED supports policies that: prepare all El Paso students to graduate from high school "college-ready" (i.e. able to matriculate and graduate college within 6 years without the need for remediation); that support the professional development of teachers and school administrators; and that empower and mobilize parents to become involved in education efforts and make informed education decisions.

In 2021, our policy priorities include the following:

1. **Continue the efforts reflected in HB-3 during the 2016 Legislative Session around outcome based school finance.** This includes a well-funded K-12 school finance system that is outcome-based and directs additional resources to support the needs of English Language Learners and low-income students. We fully endorsed the recommendations made by the Commission on Public School Finance leading into the 2016 Legislative Session, which we believe provides a roadmap for sustainable school finance reform.
2. **Continue the efforts reflected in HB-3 during the 2016 Legislative Session around improving professional development and retention of educators.** . This includes providing teachers and school leaders with professional development opportunities, working with new teacher preparation programs to help high performing teachers enter El Paso's workforce, and offering school districts incentives to recruit and retain teachers with the skills and training necessary to improve student outcomes in all sectors of the School District.
3. **Equip all students to be fully proficient in reading and math by third grade.** This includes investing in effective, high-quality early education programs.
4. **Encourage all school districts to both adopt the 60x30TX goal and metrics and provide annual reports on the progress** they are making in getting students prepared for and enrolled in college.
5. **Decrease remediation rates across the El Paso region** by increasing access to and enrollment in dual credit courses for all students by 2025.
6. **Encourage school districts to leverage SB 1882 funds** and enter into partnerships with high-quality providers that help turnaround low-performing schools.



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7. **Require all school districts in El Paso County to report on their parental engagement** plans and allow community and business organizations to provide feedback on these plans.
8. **Close the El Paso skills gap.** Connect businesses and employers with high school and higher education institutions in the region to provide meaningful work-based learning and skills training for all youth in El Paso.
9. **Safeguard current state legislation that supports a positive environment for all public schools, including free charter schools.** Work with state high-performing charter school organizations and encourage current El Paso charter organizations to champion the need for continued support of high-performing charter school growth within Texas.
10. **Ensure state financial resources are made available to ensure completion of student attainment goals.** This includes supporting legislation that allows state funds to be used for higher education scholarships and the ability for ISD's to partner with local non-profit organizations to support student financial needs.