

MOVING EL PASO EDUCATION FORWARD
OCTOBER 2026



EDUCATION MATTERS SUMMIT

#EduMattersElPaso

SESSION 1

ASCEND: BUILDING A TALENT STRONG EL PASO

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Ascend Program Director





BUILDING A TALENT-STRONG EL PASO

SESSION 1 PANELISTS

The leaders already building it



**Dr. Jesica Rendon
Arellano**
Executive Director
Canutillo ISD



Carlos Guerra
Assistant
Superintendent
of Schools,
Socorro ISD



**Dr. Brenda Chacon-
Robles**
Chief Academic
Officer,
Ysleta ISD



Dr. William Serrata
President,
El Paso Community
College



Dr. Oscar Troncoso
Superintendent,
Anthony ISD



El Paso's economic future: connecting the pathway from school to career.

A regional partnership of four pilot school districts, El Paso Community College, and CREEED — built to move more students from readiness to credentials of value and high-demand regional careers.

6 in 10

Texas jobs will require
education beyond high
school by 2030

+4,500

annual openings in
Borderplex high-demand
occupations

Sources: Workforce Solutions Borderplex, 2026 Hot Jobs



Texas created the incentives. The pathway still needs to be built.

HB3

District outcomes follow college and career readiness

STUDENTS

Move across institutions, not funding formulas

HB8

College funding follows credentials, transfer and dual credit

State policy rewards the results of coordination. It does not fund or assign ownership of every handoff required to produce it.



THE COORDINATION GAP

BUILDING A TALENT STRONG EL PASO

Each institution owns its part. No one owns the transition.

Students fall off the pathway between application and enrollment, between enrollment and completion — and both systems lose the outcome and the funding tied to it.

Statewide, districts accessed only 16% of HB3 outcomes bonus funding available in FY2024.

AVAILABLE

\$51.4

MILLION

in state bonus
funding available
to the region

ONLY

\$7.1

MILLION

14% was
claimed

LEAVING

\$44.3

MILLION

86% unclaimed —
and the student
outcomes behind it

Strong institutions — and one shared structural gap

A CREEED-commissioned regional analysis with Anthony, Canutillo, Socorro and Ysleta ISDs and El Paso Community College.

ALREADY STRONG

- Career and technical education programs
- Dual credit partnerships
- Committed district and college leaders
- Existing employer relationships

NOT YET SYSTEMIC

- Ownership of cross-system handoffs
- Shared student-level data
- Dedicated transition capacity
- Common routines across institutions

7

findings

11

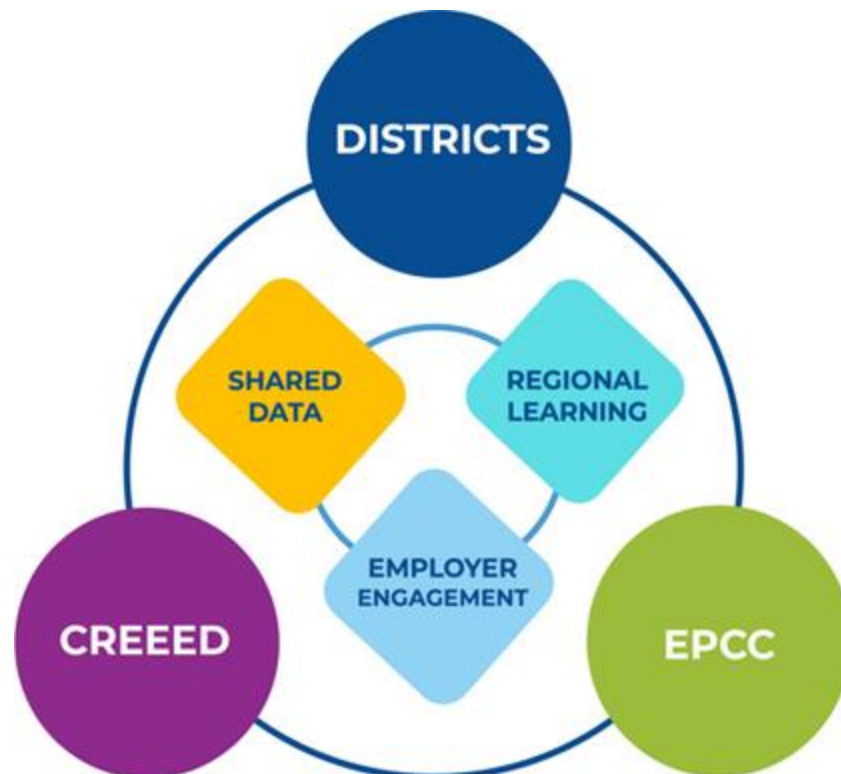
recommendations

\$24.5M

unrealized revenue in
the four pilot districts
in one year

The gap was not student potential or institutional commitment. It was the infrastructure between systems.

Six components that turn separate strengths into one regional system



DISTRICTS

A transition coach and implementation team in every pilot district

EPCC

The postsecondary hub — a dedicated coordinator, pathways and persistence

CREEED

Regional backbone — investment, convening and shared accountability

A THREE-YEAR ARC — CO-INVESTED BY ALL PARTNERS

2026–27
BUILD

2027–28
REFINE

2028–29
SUSTAIN



GET INVOLVED



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