

Board Oversight Capacity—BCY 2024

TWC Rule §802.67. Commission Evaluation of Board Oversight Capacity

Southeast Texas Score Card

The Texas Workforce Commission's annual evaluation of each Board's oversight capacity. Boards are assigned a rating of Meets Standards or Below Standards for each of the following six categories.

Develop, maintain, and upgrade comprehensive fiscal management systems

Below

- X Does the Board have fiscal management systems in place that include appropriate fiscal controls?
- √ * Does the Board, during its regularly scheduled meetings, include a quarterly review of the financial status of the Board and its service providers for all funding sources it administers?
- √ Have single audits been free of material weaknesses?

Hire, train, and retain qualified staff to carry out the Board's oversight activities

Meets

- √ Has the Board been certified?
- √ * Has the Board hired or retained qualified staff (Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer, Program Director, Contract Management Staff, Monitoring staff) to oversee contractors?

Select and oversee local contractors to improve the delivery of workforce services

Below

- X Does the Board have an effective formal procurement process, and has the Board been following this process?
- X Does the Board have a certified monitoring function in place to oversee contractors?
- √ The Board has no disallowed costs exceeding one percent of allocation (non-self-reported).
- √ The Board has no disallowed costs exceeding one percent which resulted in repaying funds.

Oversee and improve the operations of Workforce Solutions Offices in the Board's service area

Meets

- √ Does the Board have certified Workforce Solutions Offices?

- √ * Can the Board provide documentation demonstrating that it has policies in place to address service improvement, such as the initiation of performance improvement or service improvement plans when performance issues are identified with a local contractor?
- √ * Has the Board applied its service improvement policy when necessary?

Manage the contractors' performance across multiple Board programs

- ** Did the Board meet target on at least 80 percent of its contracted performance measures?
- ** Is the Board within 35 percent of target on all contracted performance measures?
- ** * Does the Board hold performance oversight meetings, do performance reviews, or, during its regularly scheduled meetings, include a review of its status on contracted performance measures at least 4 times throughout the year?

Identify and resolve long-standing or severe Board oversight problems and workforce service provider performance issues

Meets

- ** The Board did not miss target on the same performance measure two years in a row.
- √ The Board does not have any unresolved material weaknesses discovered through a single audit.
- √ The Board has not been placed on an Intent to Sanction or a Sanction.

√ = Meets Standard

X = Below Standard

* = Board Attestation

** = Due to performance data tracking updates made during this Board Oversight Capacity review cycle, these criteria will not be rated for BCY 2024.

Southeast Texas Community Impact Statement

A written statement from each Board summarizing its impact on and relationship with the local community and economy. Specify how the Board's efforts demonstrate and contribute to an effective workforce system by engaging employers, helping workers find jobs, and ensuring good fiscal stewardship.

The Southeast Texas Workforce Board continues its mission to “equip Southeast Texas with the skills and knowledge that meet the needs of employers to foster the region’s economic growth”. With this in mind, the Board invested its dollars into the training programs and other initiatives that foster the realization of its vision of “A world-class, competitive workforce for Southeast Texas”. The Board’s impact to the community in 2024 is as follows:

- Served over 16,944 job seekers
- Served over 281 Veterans
- Served over 282 Ex-offenders
- Provided employer assistance to over 2,126 businesses
- Trained 585 customers
- Served over 6,081 Unemployment Claimants
- Served an average 3,830 children in care.
- Provided employers, economic development, and training institutions with labor market information to identify wage comparisons, training needs, and future projections/trends in various industries to assist them in their efforts in increasing the area’s economy. Our economy is strong and we anticipate many new capital projects by our petrochemical employers that will result in many jobs over the next several years.
- We applied for and received a third year of funding through the Texas Talent Connection Grant (TTC). The third year TTC contract was used to fund 119 internships for trained participants to help them become employed. The funds were also used to provide 67 teacher externships in local industry for career education that can be used in their classrooms.
- We applied and received a second year of funding of Apprenticeship Expansion funds to expand the number of apprentices in our area by 130 by working with the Electricians, Plumbers Scaffolders, and Pipefitters registered apprenticeship programs. During the year we have increased the number of apprentices by 130.
- Hosted the 2023 annual Red, White & You Virtual Hiring Event for veterans, their spouses, and other job seekers in a virtual format. A total of 157 jobseekers, of which 42 were Veterans attended the event that had 41 employers looking to hire Veterans.

- There have been several lay-offs, including a 4,000 from Zachry at the Gold Pass LNG project . Also there have been several restaurants and retail stores, including three Conn's locations that have closed. The total of these is about 326. Rapid Response Services were provided.
- We are working to strengthen partnerships in our community, and improve our outreach efforts to both jobseekers and employers, through participating in partner events and social media. We no longer have virtual job fairs, but we have many in-person job fairs. We are continuing to do podcasts on pertinent topics which are available on our websites and most streaming services.
- Southeast Texas held the 2024 Youth Career Expo "Connect to Your Future" on Thursday, February 8, 2025, at the Ford Park Arena, from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. The Youth Expo featured 142 business Exhibitors from diverse industry sectors such as education, business, construction, manufacturing, law enforcement, healthcare, and STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The event is designed to focus students' interests on local industries, high-demand occupations, and post-secondary education opportunities in the area. 3,243 students from 39 different schools throughout our region participated. Upon arrival at Ford Park, students spend 30 minutes in an Orientation session to better understand the purpose of the event and receive guidance from HR facilitators on how to interact with employers on the exhibit floor. Students use a specially designed Bingo card, listing the names of the various employers, to encourage the students to visit as many booths as possible to win prizes. Students participated in the Mock Interview Challenge, answered random interview questions, and had their responses displayed on large monitors. Students received information on WSSET Target Occupations and a list of resources, such as Reality Check and Texas CREWS, in their event folders. QR codes for students to participate in a survey and access high-demand job details were included on the folder. Demand careers represented at this event included engineering, health care/medical, lawyers/judges, chemists, process operations, construction management, public service, finance, energy, transportation, information technology, to name a few. Groups representing DOL-approved apprenticeships for electricians, pipefitters, sheet metal workers, also interacted w/the students. Many students utilized simulators for welding, fire-control, pipefitting, scaffold building, emergency medicine, commercial driving, and maritime.
- Our Workforce and Career Specialist has become a valuable tool to communicate career and labor market information to area students and school counselors. During the year he visited 22 schools and reached 7,745 students. The virtual reality headsets were also used by 758 students.
- We have formed a Target Occupations Sub-committee to actively obtain input from local business and industry leaders regarding their outlook for demand occupations in our area that includes both existing and emerging occupations.

- We continue to strengthen our relationship with Vocational Rehabilitation staff and have regular meetings to discuss ways we can better serve common customers through collaboration.

We have actively participated in industry, education, and economic development organizations to meet the needs of local businesses in all three counties.