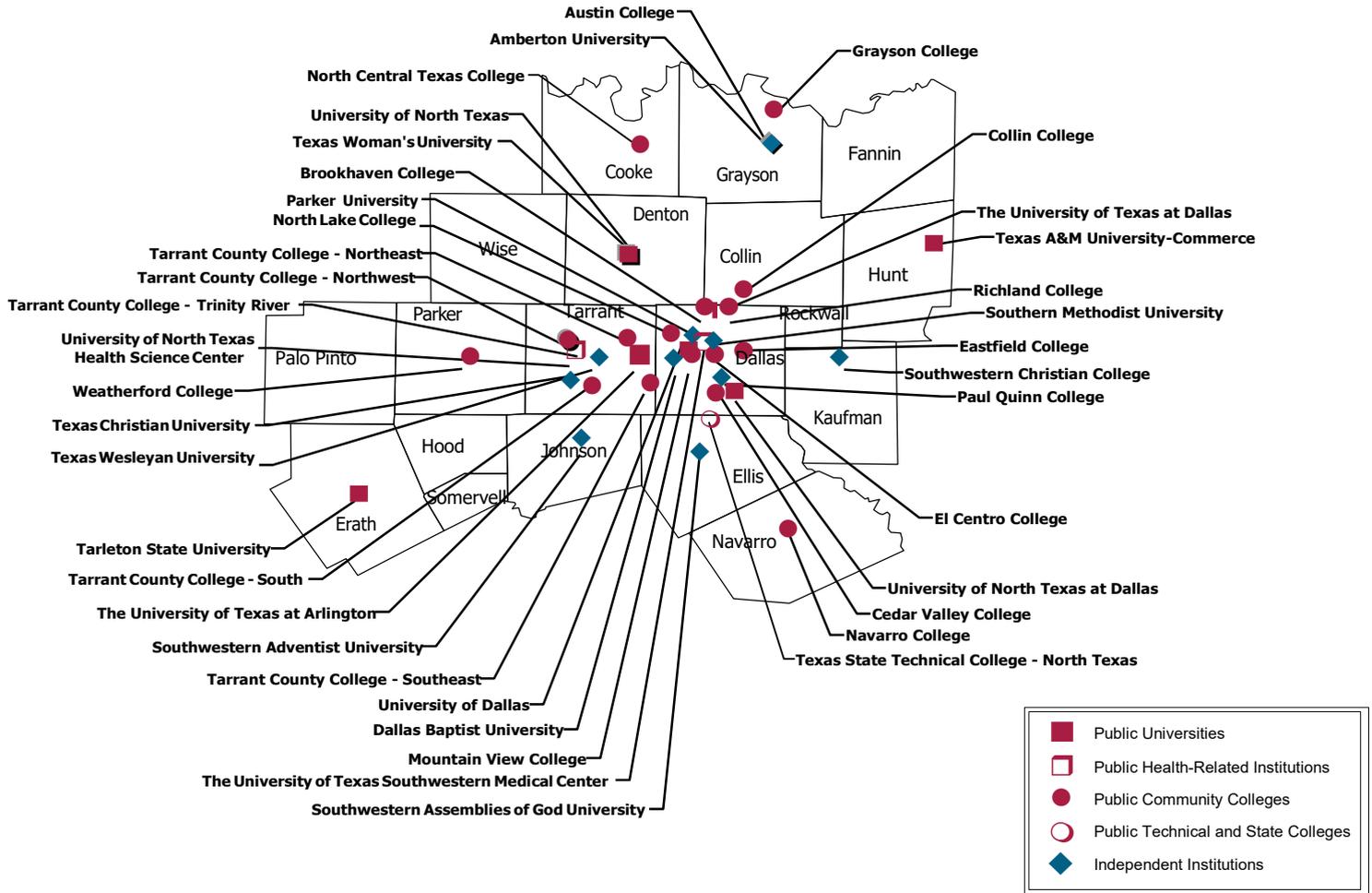
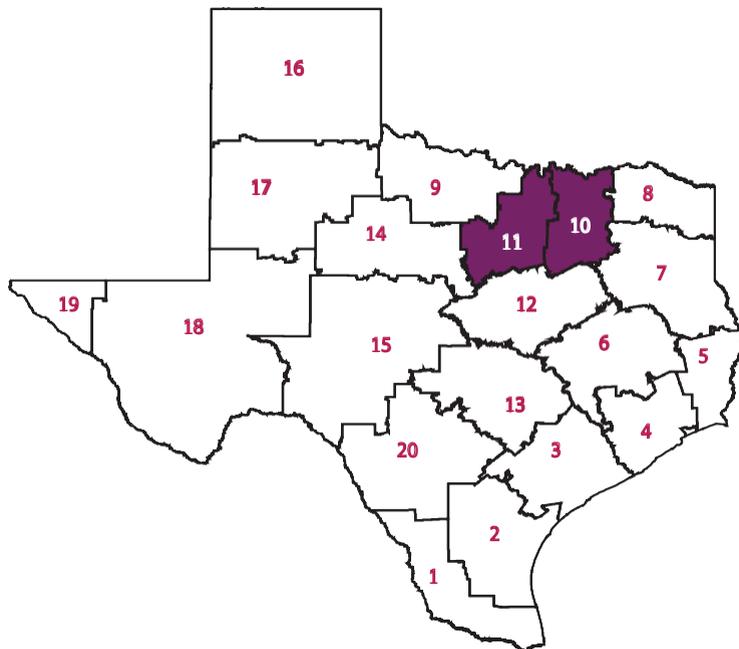


# Metroplex 2019 – 2020 REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

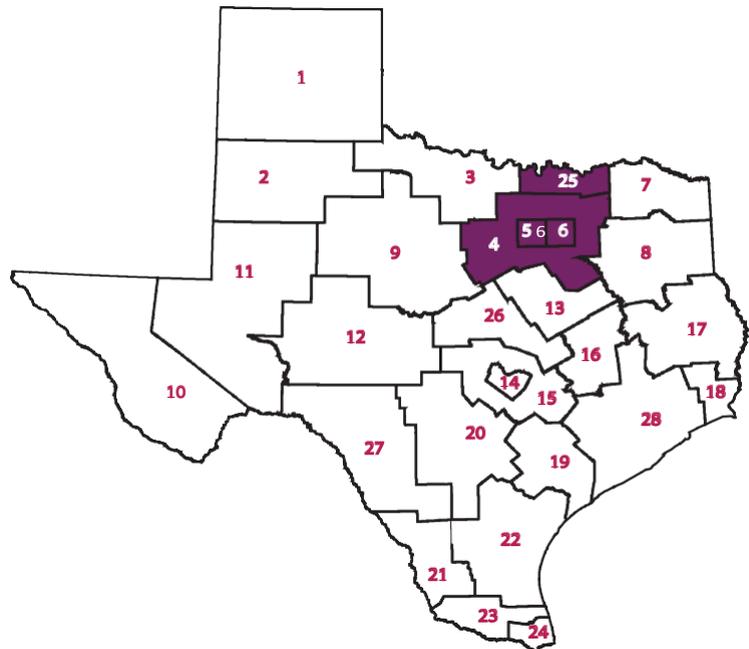
## Higher Education Region



## Education Service Centers (K12)



## TWC Workforce Development Areas



## Metroplex Region

### 60x30: EDUCATED POPULATION

#### Completed Activities

- Metroplex Regional partners participated in the inaugural Student Learning Summit at Tarrant County College at the South Campus on March 22, 2019, which included a data presentation on 60x30TX by Luis Martinez of the THECB.
- Purchased domain name for 60x30MetroTX.com with plans for development in AY2019-20 to mirror the West Texas Region.

#### 2019 – 2020 Planned Activities

- Promote attendance at the Student Learning Summit – February 7, 2020 at Tarrant County College, Trinity River Campus with registration available to 60x30 regional institutions to promote assessment of marketable skills and the guided pathways model.
- Model new 60x30MetroTX.com website after West Texas Region to include opt-in institutions from the Metroplex – development fall 2019 and launch spring 2020.
  - Promote attendance at the Regions 10 and 11 Expert to Expert: Connecting Industry Practitioners and Educators Conference (Nov 18).
- Conduct an Information and Awareness Campaign aimed at Metroplex HEIs about new/best practices for maximizing college credits of military and veteran students. Conduct at least two information sessions at targeted existing meetings and a specially planned meeting on the topic. Produce a general information piece/website content to assist Metroplex HEIs seeking to learn more about awarding credit to veterans, military service members and their families. Leverage and publicize “College Credit for Heroes.”
- Investigate the possibility of holding an annual conference in the Metroplex for military service members and veteran students. Lay groundwork (event planning, booking host site, etc.) this coming year for conference to be held sometime in AY 2020-21.

## Insights Related to Educated Population Data Trends

**2017 Educated Population 47.7%**

**2016 Educated Population 45.8%**

**2015 Educated Population 45.4%**

The percentage of educated population is slow to change. There are several reasons for this. First, the very strong economy allows citizens to readily find well-paying jobs. The current economy minimizes the compulsion to seek or to complete a higher degree. Currently there is easy availability of low- skill and living wage employment. Second, education attainment patterns have strong demographic, social and historical bases that are difficult to change over time, especially when the job market is strong. Finally, there has been and continues to be a strong narrative in the press, social media and common conversations that questions the value of education, the high cost of college, and too high student loan debt. Media readily highlight lower- educated popular figures as proof that a higher degree is not necessary for optimizing income, happiness and success.

## COMPLETION

### Completed Activities

- Raised regional awareness of Metroplex strategies utilizing North Texas Community College Consortium events throughout the year.
- Metroplex Advisory members participated in panel discussions, attended events, and presented in breakout sessions.

### 2019 – 2020 Planned Activities

- Implement better and more intrusive advising strategies across the region.
- Develop or implement Guided Pathways across the region.
- Encourage participation of several Metroplex universities in the Transfer Partnership Strategy, an initiative of the Texas Transfer Alliance to increase the number of students transferring from 2-year to 4-year institutions and completing the baccalaureate.
- Develop strategies in reaching out to “stop out” students who enrolled into post-secondary institutions but left and never returned although they have not formally dropped out. Share data within Metroplex group to identify best practices in reaching out to these students.

## Insights Related to Completion Data Trends

**2018 Completion 80,345**

**2017 Completion 76,984**

**2016 Completion 73,774**

Several factors contribute to increases in degree completion in the Metroplex. First, there has been significant growth in dual enrollment with higher completions and transfer especially among early college high school students. Second, the reduction in developmental course levels and the new co-requisite model are starting to have an impact on persistence and completion. Finally, many Metroplex colleges and universities have undertaken significant degree completion initiatives.

## HIGH SCHOOL-TO-HIGHER EDUCATION

### Completed Activities

- Raised regional awareness of Metroplex strategies utilizing North Texas Community College Consortium events throughout the year that includes a K-12 Summit, Dual Credit and the Transfer Collaborative, and College Prep among others.

### 2019 – 2020 Planned Activities

- Create a strong regional strategy and marketing campaign to improve and collaborate with ISDs to increase FASFA completion.
- Consider the development of a FAFSA app either on the 60x30MetroTX.com website and/or for smartphones that will allow the Metroplex members to engage in partnership with ISDs who may not have the bandwidth to provide such resources.
- Improve college readiness attainment for middle school and high school students with stronger collaboration between higher education and ISDs.
- Work with the Coordinating Board to obtain data to locate those students who have graduated from ISDs but did not enter college to find out why they chose to enter the workforce. Data may assist in the development of improved student enrollment from high school to post-secondary institutions.
- Promote attendance at Regions 10/11 events including: Education Pathways Summit (Sept 3), iWorks Youth Career Exploration Event (Oct 9), Counselor Summit (Oct 31), TACRO College Fair (Jan 24), Spring Expert to Expert Conference.

## Insights to High School-To-Higher Education Data Trends

**2018 High school-to-higher education rate 51.7%**

**2017 High school-to-higher education rate 51.7%**

**2016 High school-to-higher education rate 51.2%**

A number of factors influence the high school-to-higher education data for the Metroplex. As mentioned previously, the region has seen significant growth in dual enrollment and improved transfer relationships with 2-year and 4-year institutions. Percentage growth is leveling but not stagnant or decreasing. A strong economy contributes to the availability of employment, making it more attractive to some students to enter the workforce immediately after high school rather than pursue higher education. There is certainly room for growth, especially with an increase in FASFA completion.

### Organizational Structure

- Strong Metroplex Regional commitment with 4-year and 2-year participation along with NTCCC leadership and ESC representation.
- Use of technology such as Zoom for regular meetings and updates.
- Expansion of membership with greater emphasis on regional chambers of commerce, business and industry and ISD participation.