



TEXAS SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION COMMENTS

Submitted by Ben Arriola | Chairman of the Board of Career Colleges & Schools of Texas (CCST)
Texas Sunset Advisory Commission Hearing | August 12, 2026

Chair Kolkhorst, Vice Chair Hull, and Members of the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

My name is Ben Arriola. I am President of Southwest University at El Paso and Chairman of the Board of Career Colleges & Schools of Texas (CCST). I come before you both on behalf of our association and as someone who sees firsthand the role career education plays in preparing countless Texans for the workforce.

Before I get into my comments, I'd also like to offer a special greeting to our hometown senator, Senator César Blanco, someone all of us in El Paso are especially proud to call our own. Senator, thank you for your service to our region and to the State of Texas.

For more than five decades, CCST has served as the leading voice for private-sector career and higher education institutions across Texas. Our schools offer bachelor's and associate degrees, as well as certificate and diploma programs, serving more than 150,000 students each year.

Wherever there is a need for a trained, skilled workforce in Texas, there is likely a CCST institution nearby already working with employers and industry partners to help meet that need.

It is from that perspective that CCST is generally supportive of Recommendation 2.1 and the proposed transfer of career school regulation from the Texas Workforce Commission to TDLR. We respect the Sunset process and ultimately the Legislature's determination of the regulatory structure most prudent for Texas.

The numbers in your staff report make clear why improvement is needed. In 2025, 425 of the 790 schools due for recertification - 54 percent - were