

Frank S. Denton, Chairman
Texas State Board of
Plumbing Examiners
(512) 936-5200



Bryan Daniel, Chairman
Texas Workforce
Commission
(512) 463-3030

December 1, 2022

Dear Superintendent:

Alignment of education with industry needs is vital to the future economic prosperity of our state. This is especially important in occupations such as plumbing that protect the health and safety of Texans. Projections show employment needs in the plumbing industry will increase by 17% over the next 4 years, which further demonstrates the need to adapt educational opportunities in our state to prepare the future workforce for this increasing demand. The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) both work hard to support alignment and workforce development in the plumbing industry.

TSBPE, acting on the authority granted by the legislature, has paved the way for students who successfully complete a high school/trade school program to immediately test to become licensed tradesman plumbers. Over the last two years, TSBPE approved the curriculum created by TEA and created administrative processes to fast-track successful students to enter the plumbing profession.

TWC's Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program supports those efforts by providing funds for training equipment supporting in-demand occupations like plumbing. The JET Program provides grants to public junior, state and technical colleges, open enrollment charter schools, and school districts to purchase and install equipment for the development of career and technical education courses or programs that lead to a license, certificate or postsecondary degree in a high-demand occupation. Between 2016 and 2022, the JET program has awarded more than 300 grants to education partners and provided over \$95 million to projects creating a direct pathway to high-demand occupations in their respective regions.

Applications for the next round of JET funding will go live soon and we hope you will consider applying. Programs interested in teaching the approved high school curriculum may find more information on the TEA website at <https://tea.texas.gov/cte>. To learn more about applying for funding, visit www.twc.texas.gov/JET or contact TWC's Outreach and Employer Initiatives Division at 512-463-9509 or jetgrants@twc.texas.gov.

Thank you for all that you do to prepare the state's future workforce. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of any service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank S. Denton".

Frank S. Denton, Chairman
Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Daniel".

Bryan Daniel, Chairman
Texas Workforce Commission