

# Stronger Together: Rural Collaboration for Future-Ready CTE Opportunities

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Serve. Lead. Ignite.

## Innovation...

**"The biggest risk is not taking any risk. In a world that is changing quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks."**

**- Mark Zuckerberg**

# Some Statistics To Think About...

## *The Graduates of 2025...*

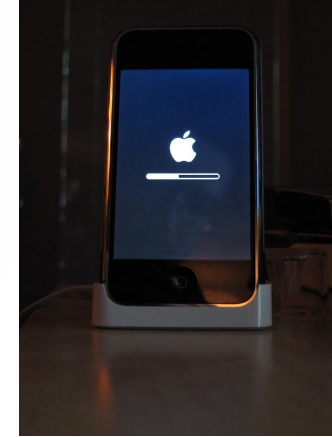
- ★ *Born in 2006/2007*
- ★ *Started Kindergarten in 2011/2012*



*The Kindergarteners of 2025 will graduate in 2038.*



*The iPhone was invented January of 2007*



*Netflix streaming became a possibility in January of 2007*

*Spotify was founded in 2006*





The Future of Work

Serve. Lead. Ignite.

## The Future of Work is Already Here

- 85% of the jobs that will exist in 2030 haven't been invented yet.

*(Source: Dell Technologies & Institute for the Future)*

- Automation could impact up to 45% of current work activities.

*(Source: McKinsey Global Institute)*

→ Implication: Schools must teach adaptability, not just content.



## Skills Over Degrees

- More than 50% of employers say skills are more important than degrees for many roles.

*(Source: LinkedIn Workplace Learning Report)*

- By 2030, human skills like creativity, collaboration, and emotional intelligence will be in the highest demand.

*(Source: World Economic Forum)*

## Education Pipelines Are Shifting

- Enrollment in traditional college has declined by 15% over the past decade.

*(Source: National Student Clearinghouse)*

- 60% of Gen Z students say they are open to alternatives to a four-year degree.

*(Source: ECMC Group & VICE Media Survey)*

→ CTE, apprenticeships, and pathway programs are more important than ever.



# Region 16 Labor Market Analysis

1. Health Care Pathway Opportunities
2. Skilled Trades (welding, plumbing, HVAC, etc)
3. Information Technology (Network & Systems Administration, Cybersecurity, Help Desk, etc)

# Approximately 1 in 5 American students attend a rural school.

**In Texas, 78% of school districts, 959 districts, have 3,000 students or fewer.**

In fact, 15 of Texas's 20 Education Service Centers are majority rural. Moreover, the student population served by these rural districts is predominantly economically disadvantaged and students of color.



# Rural Innovation

## Permian Basin Innovation Zone (PBIZ)

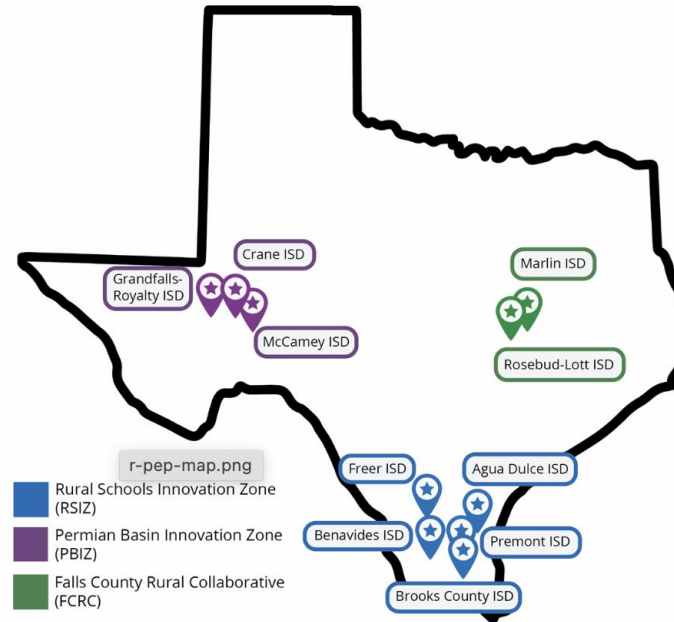
- Crane ISD
- McCamey ISD
- Grandfalls-Royalty ISD

## Falls County Rural Collaborative (FCRC)

- Marlin ISD
- Rosebud-Lott ISD

## Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ)

- Agua Dulce ISD
- Benavides ISD
- Brooks County ISD
- Freer ISD
- Premont ISD



## What the Legislation Does



### Rural Focus

Policy focuses on school systems that lack economies of scale to offer a broad array of college and career pathways



### Multi-District

Formalized partnerships must be between two or more eligible districts



### Cross-Sector Partners

Participating districts must partner with at least one institution of higher education and/or regional workforce agency



### High Value College and Career Pathways

College and career pathways must align with regional workforce needs and lead to family-sustaining wage careers



### Performance Agreement

Partnerships are codified through a performance agreement with ambitious, measurable goals tied to CCMR outcomes



### Coordinating Intermediary

Dedicated intermediary coordinates partnerships and maintains pathways; the performance agreement ensures the intermediary has the authority to optimize each pathway



### Expand Funds

Additional funds incentivize rural collaboration:

- Expanded outcomes-based funding
- Increased statutory allotment
- Additional start-up funding and capacity through technical assistance

### Benefits to Districts

- Additional resources to expand existing college and career offerings and launch new ones
- Added capacity to ensure pathways are sustainable, aligned to regional workforce needs, and working for students

### Benefits to Regions

- Students enter the workforce with aligned skills and qualifications
- College and career pathways prepare students for regional opportunities

### Benefits to Students

- More opportunities to explore career pathways
- Certification and dual credit opportunities
- Readiness for in-demand, family-sustaining wage professions



# The RSIZ Academies

Each RSIZ academy focuses on specific exciting college and career pathways with opportunities open to all RSIZ students.  
Explore and learn more about each RSIZ academy below.



**Ignite Technical Institute  
Career and Technical Academy**  
at Falfurrias High School



**Next Generation Medical Academy Health and  
Science Academy**  
at Freer High School



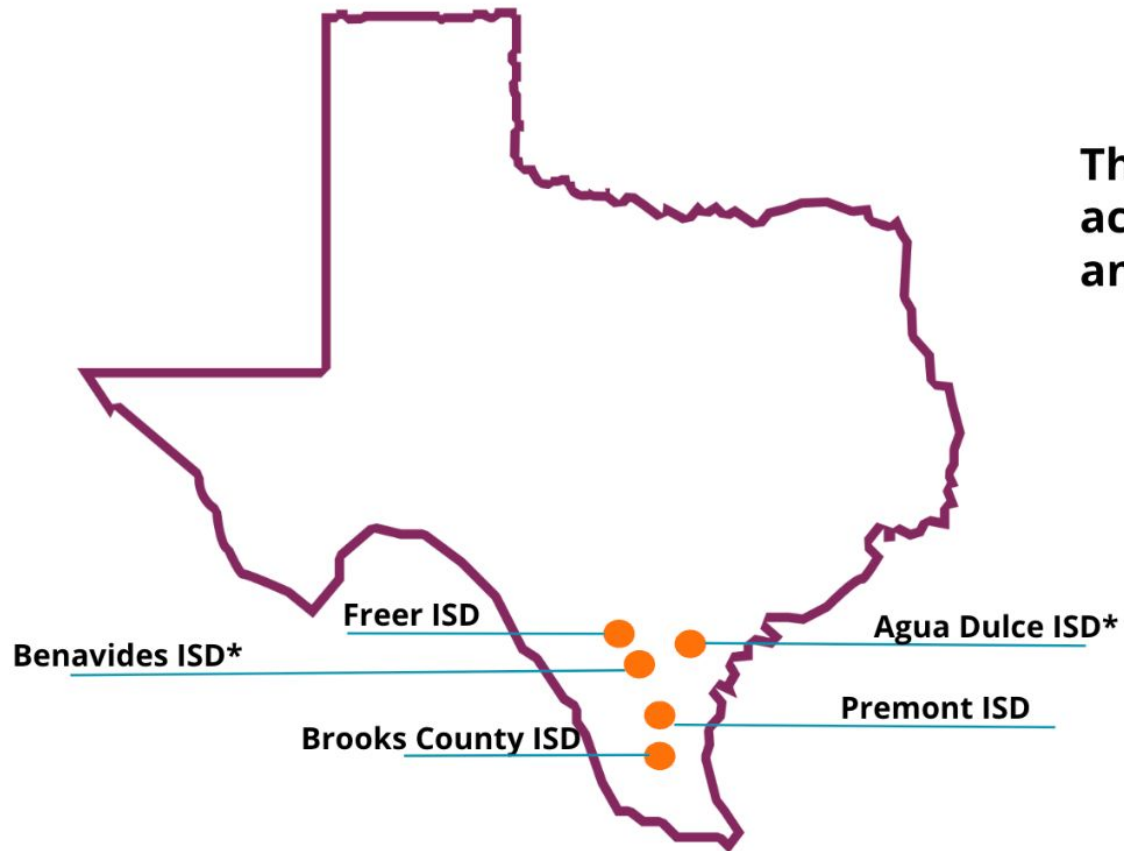
**STEM Discovery Zone STEM Academy**  
at Premont Collegiate High School



**Grow Your Own  
Educator Academy** at  
Premont High School



**Citizen's Battalion Naval  
JROTC Academy**  
at Falfurrias High School



*\*new districts for 23-24 school year*

The Rural Schools Innovation Zone is a partnership across 5 districts, 6 institutions of higher education, and regional workforce partners.

The mission is to provide rural students high-quality opportunities for **post-secondary success**. Each district high school offers specialized academies open to **any** student within the RSIZ.



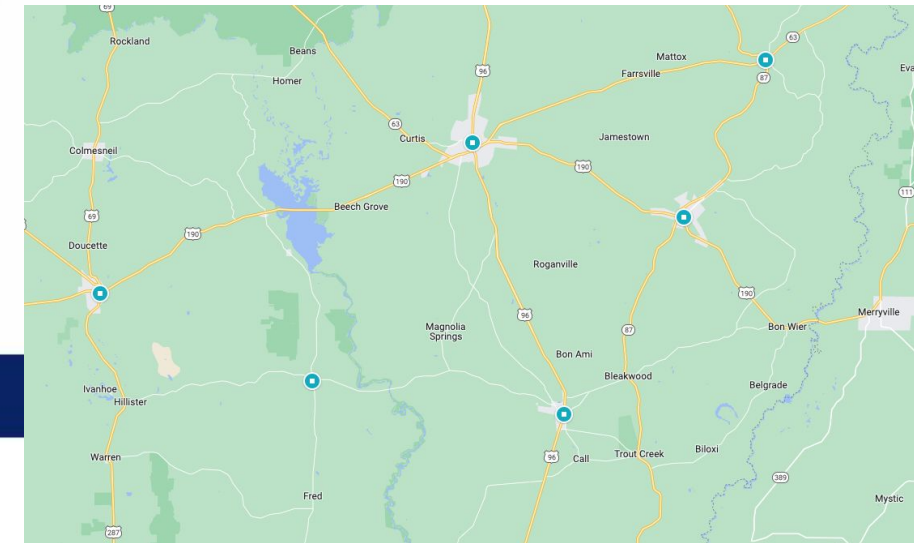


# DEEP EAST TEXAS COLLEGE & CAREER ALLIANCE

## What is DETCCA?

The Deep East Texas College & Career Alliance is a collaboration of public-school districts and institutions of higher education in the deep East Texas region. These districts and institutions include:

- [Burkeville ISD](#)
- [Jasper ISD](#)
- [Kirbyville ISD](#)
- [Newton ISD](#)
- [Spurger ISD](#)
- [Woodville ISD](#)
- [Lamar Institute of Technology](#)
- [Stephen F. Austin State University](#)



- Target opportunity youth
- Partner with Higher Education Partners
- Dual Credit Opportunities
- Career and Technology Opportunities
  - Welding
  - Automotive Technology
  - Criminal Justice
  - Cyber Security
- Apprenticeship Opportunities

**This fall, the Permian Basin Innovation Zone (PBIZ) launched between four districts, two IHEs, and the Education Partnership of the Permian Basin in West Texas.**



**4 participating school districts:** McCamey ISD, Crane ISD, Grandfalls-Royalty ISD and Buena Vista ISD serving ~500 high school students



**Education Partnership of the Permian Basin**



**2 higher education partners:** Odessa College and Midland College

#### **PBIZ Mission**

Small, rural districts working together, embodying the heart and strength of rural Texas, to compete, prepare and support students, educators, and community in the creation of a vibrant and successful Permian Basin regional economy.

#### **PBIZ Vision**

Opportunity, Access, Experience and Outcomes for All

#### **Identified Pathways:**

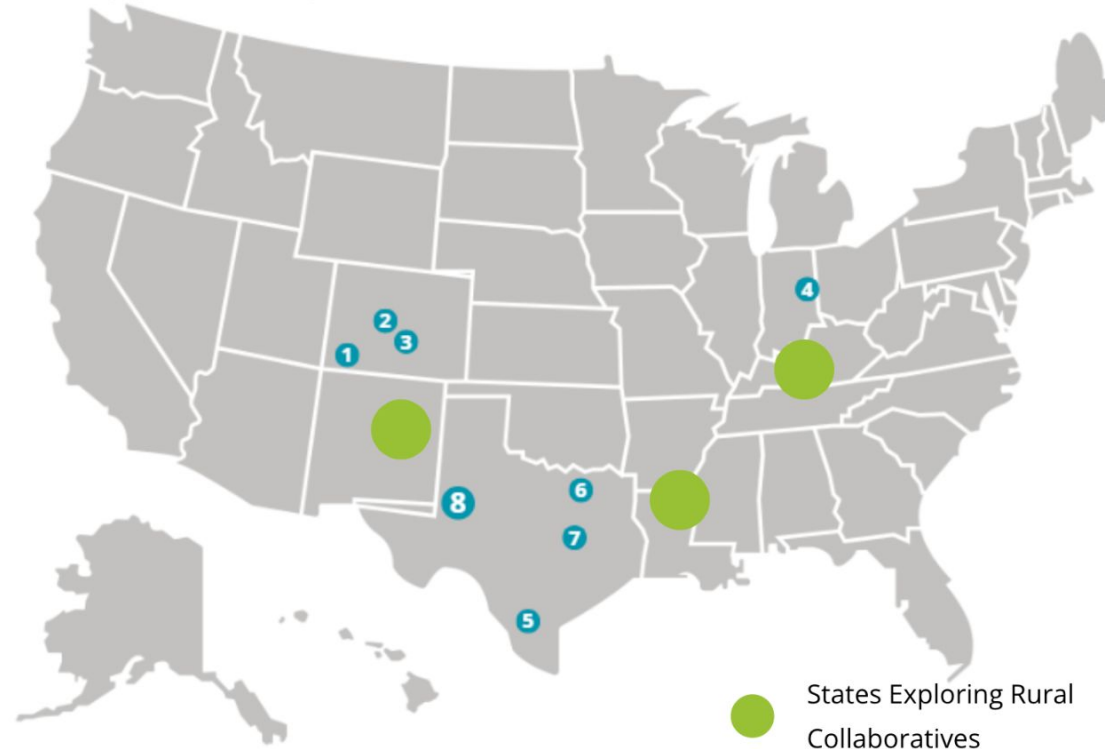
- Launching Fall 2023
  - Welding
  - Education\*
  - Nursing (exploration of LVN)
- Launching 2024 or 2025
  - Energy\*
  - Drone

\*new pathways



**These collaboratives represent two rural collaboratives within a larger movement across the country, namely in Texas, Colorado, and Indiana, with at least three additional states exploring the opportunity.**

- 1 Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative (SWCEC)
- 2 Western Slope Schools Career Collaborative (WSSCC)
- 3 Fremont Multidistrict Initiative (FMI)
- 4 Rural Alliance Zone - 32 (RAZ- 32)
- 5 Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ)
- 6 Hunt County Career Collaborative
- 7 Falls County Rural Collaborative
- 8 Permian Basin Innovation Zone (PBIZ)









### Vision:

- ✓ Create Texas' first **Rural School Innovation Zone**
- ✓ Expand access to **high-need career pathways** (Healthcare & Skilled Trades)

### Driving Forces:

- Address rural access to CTE/CCMR pathways & regional workforce gaps
- Use **labor market data** to guide pathway focus

### Our Collaborative:

- 🎯 **Texline, Dalhart, Channing ISDs**
- 🎯 **Supported by Region 16 & Empower Schools**

### Key Milestones:

- ✓ 12 Leadership Planning Sessions
- ✓ Preparing for **TEA Designation Application**
- ✓ Site Visits to Permian Basin Innovation Zone
- ✓ Labor Market Analysis Reviewed

### Next Steps:

- SOON Launch **shared pathways for 2025-26 launch**
- SOON Hire NPIZ Coordinator
- SOON Build a **replicable rural model for Texas**



# Welcome Design Team!



Dalhart ISD



TEXLINE ISD



Channing ISD





# NPIZ Pathways...

- Health Science Pathway (Dalhart Hub)
- Auto Tech Pathway (Dalhart Hub)
- Diesel Mechanics Pathway (Dalhart Hub)
- Welding Pathway (Possible Dalhart/Frank Phillips Hub)

### **Identifying Existing Opportunities**

*Ex. Are there any informal (or formal) collaboration already taking place in your region?*

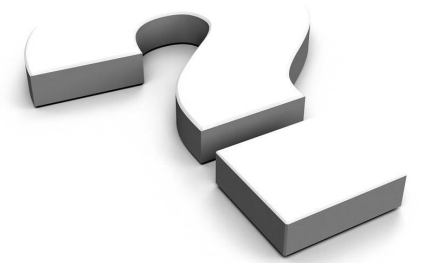
### **Key Champions in Your Region**

*Ex. Who are the influential people in your region? What do they want to do/see in terms of growth and progress?*

### **Information & Communications**

*Ex. What is the communication/information sharing that should take place?*

# Would my district be a candidate for this work?



- Willingness to **collaborate** to do what is best for all kids.
- Willingness to **plan** (10 planning sessions)
- **Board Support** for the work
- **Identified Labor Work Force** High Wage-High Demand Pathways
- **Opportunities to actually share** (space/capacity) a quality pathway with other districts.
- Complete application to TEA for RPEP Designation -
  - Districts under 1600 qualify for weighted funding for any student served under the RPEP guidelines.
  - Coordinating Entity - This entity would coordinate and support planning and implementation.
  - 80% of funding generated by pathway student flows back into the program to grow and sustain the program and pathways.
  - Performance Agreement is agreed upon and signed off on by all districts, any higher ed partner(s) and the coordinating entity. This agreement creates goals for the collaborative and consequences if goals are not met annually.

## Funding Support:

- Region 16 - Texas Regional Pathway Grant
- Empower Schools Technical Assistance Grant Funding
- (Pending per legislation) Planning and Implementation Grant Funding
- (Pending per legislation) Raising the cap for this work from 5 million to 10 million
- Transportation Allotment
- RPEP Allotment funding (80% per student weighted funding) cycled back into the program for sustainability



## Sample Exploration and Planning Timeline

Exploration (~3-6 months)	Planning (~12 months)	Implementation (~2 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Initial engagement</li><li>- Feasibility and readiness assessment</li><li>- Building understanding of the college &amp; career pathway landscape, and state funding, accountability and incentives</li><li>- Site visit(s)</li><li>- Building buy-in and commitment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Labor market analysis and analysis of existing college and career pathways</li><li>- Identifying 2-3 high-quality shared pathways</li><li>- Development of shared goals and vision for student success</li><li>- Performance agreements/MOUs</li><li>- Identifying relevant staff capacity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Launching shared pathways</li><li>- Monitoring data and student outcomes for continuous improvement</li><li>- Identification of new staff or pathways</li><li>- Developing sustainable funding structure</li></ul>



## **Rural Collaborative Readiness Template...**

		Yes	No
	<b>Key Questions</b>		
	<b>Current District Climate Considerations</b>		
	Are you already collaborating with another school district(s)?		
	Is your school board aligned to your vision for innovation and		
	Is there a belief that your students need access to more		
	Are external partnerships common in your district with the ESC,		
	Do you currently offer concurrent enrollment courses with a local		
	Does your staff currently work with colleagues across districts for		
	Do your families and community help shape the priorities of your		
	Are their challenges facing your students where you need		
	<b>Operational Considerations</b>		
	Are you open to creating new opportunities for your students, even		
	if those offerings don't physically take place in your district?		
	Are you open to hosting students from other districts to take		
	Are you open to sharing your district FTEs with other districts (and		
	Are you open to aligning your academic calendar and daily		
	schedules with other districts in order to accommodate more		
	opportunities/resources for your students?		
	Are you open to re-imagining an existing district program(s) for a		
	greater benefit to your students, possibly in partnership with		
	another district(s)?		
	Do you currently have a practice of collecting and analyzing data		
	which informs strategic decision making?		
	Do you currently have adequate facilities and equipment to		
	provide the programs currently being offered in your district?		
	<b>Philosophical Considerations</b>		
	Are you committed to building the capacity and proficiency of		
	Do you believe your district could pursue innovation to maximize		
	Are you willing to pursue state initiatives and programs if it would		
	Do you see your role as a school district to prepare students to be		
	successful in life, beyond their educational career?		
	Are you committed to finding sustainable funding streams		
	(beyond student enrollment gains) and dedicating necessary		
	resources to make a district collaborative sustainable long-term?		
	Are there initiatives and programs you would like to pursue, but		



# Call to Action...

Region 16 wants to partner and support your district in championing innovative solutions in education! Together, we can revolutionize learning experiences, empower students, and shape the future of education. Let us know how we can support you and your team!

Spring Workshop - Canyon - 2025

## Stronger Together: Rural Collaboration for Future-Ready CTE Opportunities

5/21/2025

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

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# CEC 3209

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