

# Allow all public schools to access JET grant funding

## The Problem

The Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) program provides funding for public schools to purchase equipment for use in career and technical education classes that lead to the student earning a technical license or certificate. Currently, public charter schools are not eligible for the grant even if they provide high-quality career and technical training programs that would qualify. This leaves these public schools at a funding disadvantage when providing these expensive career training opportunities for their students.

## The Solution

Public charter schools should be eligible to apply for the JET program. This will ensure more public school students – the future workforce of Texas – are equipped with the skills they need in order to be successful and competitive in the job market.

## SB 346 and HB 618 will:

Allow open-enrollment public schools to participate in the JET Grant Program.

Vanguard Academy has existed for 20 years and is a top performing school system in the Rio Grande Valley. Vanguard recently built a Center for Innovation to help their students excel in high-demand careers after high school graduation. Because they are a public charter school, they were ineligible for the JET program, and had to purchase CTE equipment with classroom funds even though there is a grant program specifically designed to support these programs. All public schools should have access to state grant programs.