

New coalition calls for higher high school standards

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The Texas Coalition for a Competitive Workforce wants improved accountability to show high school graduates are ready for college or careers.

Several associations for business and education interests have formed a coalition. They want to present the next session of the state legislature with reforms to make students better prepared for college or career training. Texas Association of Business president Bill Hammond says 65 percent of new jobs require college or equivalent skills. However, he says as many as 80 percent of Texas high school students fail to meet readiness benchmarks.

A spokesman for the Texas Institute for Education Reform, Andy Erben, says businesses could help schools provide career training.