



86TH Legislative Agenda

✓ ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Garland Chamber of Commerce continues to support standards and training at all levels of our educational system that provide students with the skills required by employers. It is important to ensure students have multiple pathways to high-growth STEM areas. We support an increase in opportunities for internship, Career and Technical Education programs, and apprenticeships that advance career and college readiness. The Garland Chamber supports the Skills Development Fund to improve workforce and training and produce skilled workers. In addition, we support maintaining the State of Texas Enterprise Fund to encourage economic growth.

✓ TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Garland Chamber of Commerce supports all initiatives that increase and improve infrastructure within the region by advocating for regional increases of funds dedicated to the construction of roadways and rail corridors in North Texas. The Chamber supports all funding methods supporting the IH-635 East Corridor Project. These efforts will ensure the maintenance and continued development of our state's transportation infrastructure.

✓ PUBLIC & HIGHER EDUCATION

The Garland Chamber of Commerce supports an educational system that stabilizes school finance and provides adequate, equitable and efficient funding for educational institutions and the students they serve. The Chamber supports for an assessment and accountability system that values student growth and achievement over standardized, high-stakes testing. The system should: Focus on measuring and rewarding student growth rather than punitive sanctions; reduce the emphasis on high-stakes tests, especially for grades 3–8; be developmentally appropriate; reduce testing redundancy; provide a fair and understandable system for illustrating school performance that does not rely on simple labels such as A through F. We support regional equity, tuition flexibility, and adequate funding, including financial aid for post-secondary educational institutions in the region.

✓ PUBLIC HEALTH

The Garland Chamber of Commerce will support and promote initiatives to improve the quality of health care coverage and services, and expand meaningful coverage and availability to the uninsured while controlling costs. These include, but are not limited to, reducing Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse, protecting tax dollars, increasing the use of Medicaid managed care, achieving greater flexibility, improving Medicaid/CHIP quality and efficiency, and improving the Texas Health Care Delivery System.

✓ NATURAL RESOURCES

The Garland Chamber of Commerce supports initiatives that improve and accelerate water resources and promote items such as water conservation measures, additional energy sources, and projects that aim to utilize the abundance of natural gas that exists in Texas. The Texas legislature is urged to consider methods that will have a positive impact on businesses and municipalities. The Garland Chamber of Commerce opposes any legislation that would negatively affect either water or energy sustainability in Texas.