



**SOUTHWEST**  
TEXAS ★ COLLEGE

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**LA SALLE  
COUNTY**

**SERVICE PLAN**

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Prepared by Southwest Texas College  
May 2026

# Executive Summary

## Expanding opportunity for La Salle County through education and workforce investment

La Salle County stands at a pivotal moment. A stable workforce, high poverty rates, and limited access to postsecondary credentials create urgency, and opportunity, for strategic investment.

Annexation would:

- Establish a **Cotulla Technical Campus**
- Provide **in-district tuition savings** of approximately \$1,020 per 12-credit semester
- Expand dual credit, workforce certifications, and adult education programs
- Create 10-15 initial local jobs
- Free tuition to high school graduates
- Representation on Board of Trustees

The average homeowner impact is approximately **\$87 per year, less than \$8 per month.**

Annexation ensures La Salle County students and employers have the tools to compete and thrive within Texas' growing economy.



## The Vision: Cotulla Technical Campus

Annexation would allow Southwest Texas College to establish a permanent technical training presence in Cotulla, expanding student access and meeting local workforce demand. This investment represents the first phase of a long-term strategy to strengthen educational pathways and expand economic opportunity within La Salle County.

### Initial Phase Investment

- Conceptual plans may include approximately 15,000–20,000 square feet of classroom, office, and laboratory space
- Early estimates suggest a potential capital investment in the range of approximately \$4–\$7 million
- Facility planning discussions include consideration of future expansion opportunities
- The proposed concept could support technical credentialing and workforce training opportunities responsive to regional workforce and employer needs.

### Potential Facility Components

Following a market analysis and continued assessment of regional workforce needs, the proposed facility concept may include components such as:

#### Technical Labs

- A fully equipped Welding Laboratory
- A modular laboratory space designed to support rotating programs such as HVAC, Construction Science, Allied Health, or other high-demand technical training areas as workforce priorities evolve
- Designated training space that may accommodate CDL/Truck Driving, Powerline Technology, Cybersecurity, and Oil & Gas-related workforce credentials, including pipeline operations, instrumentation, meter technology, industrial safety, and related technical occupations
- Flexible instructional space that could support law enforcement and public safety training, including programs for jailers, detention facility officers, and related workforce certifications

#### Instructional and Student Support Space

- Dedicated classrooms associated with lab-based programs
- Classroom space that could support community-based academic offerings
- Faculty office space
- Study and learning support areas
- Space for registration and student success support services
- Workforce Training and Development offices

The overall facility concept is intended to provide flexibility for technical instruction, academic coursework, advising, and workforce development services in response to identified community and employer needs.



## Economic & Community Impact

Annexation moves beyond program expansion and establishes permanent institutional capacity to support La Salle County's long-term workforce and economic development goals.

- Hire **10-15 full-time employees** in addition to part-time and work study
  - Commitment to local workforce engagement and hiring where feasible
  - Increased opportunities for career advancement within La Salle County
  - Creation of permanent educational infrastructure within the county
  - Supports regional economic development strategy
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## Alignment with Cotulla ISD

The proposed campus would:

- Expand dual credit technical pathways
- Increase access to career and technical education programs
- Strengthen high school-to-college transitions
- Support workforce-ready credential attainment for graduating seniors

This alignment ensures that local students can pursue both transfer pathways and high-demand technical careers without leaving the region.

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## Return on Investment

The proposed workforce training facility has the potential to generate both economic and community benefits throughout the region.

- Expanded access to local workforce training and technical credentials may help retain students and skilled workers within the region.
- Increased local employment opportunities and workforce preparation could contribute to higher earnings, stronger local spending, and broader economic activity within surrounding communities.
- Development of a regional talent pipeline may help reduce employer reliance on recruiting workers from outside the area while strengthening partnerships between education, industry, and community stakeholders.

Together, these outcomes may support long-term workforce stability, regional competitiveness, and sustainable community growth.

# Required Service Plan Information

Pursuant to *Texas Education Code §130.065(c)*, the Southwest Texas College Board is required under state law to complete and publish a Service Plan for the territory proposed for annexation not later than the 30th day before the date of the public hearing. This informational Service Plan includes required property tax, tuition, and fee information associated with the proposed inclusion of La Salle County into the Southwest Texas College District.

## **Maximum Property Tax Rate**

In accordance with Texas Education Code §130.065(c), the maximum property tax rate Southwest Texas College may adopt is \$1.00 per \$100 assessed valuation, subject to limitations established under Texas law related to maintenance and operations and debt service taxation.

## **Most Recent Adopted Property Tax Rate**

The most recent property tax rate adopted by the Southwest Texas College Board of Trustees is \$0.12 per \$100 assessed valuation.

At this time, no additional tax rate increase is proposed specifically in connection with the proposed annexation of La Salle County.

## **In-District Tuition Rate Following Annexation**

If annexation is approved, students residing within La Salle County would qualify for Southwest Texas College's in-district tuition rate.

Current estimated in-district tuition and mandatory fees are approximately \$110.25 per semester credit hour. Tuition and fee schedules remain subject to change upon action of the Southwest Texas College Board of Trustees.

## **Out-of-District Tuition and Fees**

Students residing outside the Southwest Texas College taxing district are charged the out-of-district tuition and fee rate.

Current estimated out-of-district tuition and mandatory fees are approximately \$180.25 per semester credit hour. Tuition and fee schedules remain subject to change upon action of the Southwest Texas College Board of Trustees.

## **Publication Requirement**

This Service Plan is informational only and is published in accordance with Texas Education Code §130.065(c) not later than the 30th day before the public hearing regarding the proposed annexation.