13.80. Purpose.

The purpose of this program is to provide tuition rebates that will provide a financial incentive for students to prepare for university studies while completing their high school work, avail themselves of academic counseling, make early career decisions, and complete their baccalaureate studies with as few courses outside the degree plan as possible. Minimizing the number of courses taken by students results in financial savings to students, parents, and the state.

13.81. Authority.

The program is authorized by Texas Education Code, Section 54.0065

13.82. Eligible Students.

To be eligible for rebates under this program, students must meet all of the following conditions:

(1) They must have enrolled for the first time in an institution of higher education in the fall 1997 semester or later,

(2) They must be requesting a rebate for work related to a first baccalaureate degree received from a Texas public university,

(3) They must have been a resident of Texas, [must have attempted all coursework at a Texas public institution of higher education,] and have been entitled to pay resident tuition at all times while pursuing the degree, and

(4) They must have attempted no more than 15 hours at institutions other than Texas public institutions of higher education, and

(5) ([4]) They must have attempted no more than three hours in excess of the minimum number of semester credit hours required to complete the degree under the catalog under which they were graduated. Hours attempted include transfer credits, course credit earned exclusively by examination, courses [that
CHAPTER 13                  FINANCIAL PLANNING

are dropped after the official census date, for-credit developmental courses, optional internship and cooperative education courses, and repeated courses. Courses dropped for reasons that are determined by the institution to be totally beyond the control of the student shall not be counted. For students concurrently earning a baccalaureate degree and a Texas teaching certificate, required teacher education courses shall not be counted to the extent that they are over and above the free electives allowed in the baccalaureate degree program.


(a) All Texas public baccalaureate-granting general academic universities are required to offer rebates to eligible students.

(b) All Texas public institutions of higher education are required to notify students of the existence of the tuition rebate program and provide course enrollment opportunities (see Section 13.85 of this title, relating to Responsibilities of Institutions).

13.84. Amount of Tuition Rebates.

(a) The amount of tuition to be rebated to a student under this program is $1,000, unless the total amount of undergraduate tuition paid by the student to the institution awarding the degree was less than $1,000, in which event the amount of tuition to be rebated is an amount equal to the amount of undergraduate tuition paid by the student to the institution.

(b) A student who paid the institution awarding the degree an amount of undergraduate tuition less than $1,000 may qualify for an increase in the amount of the rebate, not to exceed a total rebate of $1,000, for any amount of undergraduate tuition the student paid to other Texas public institutions of higher education by providing the institution awarding the degree with proof of the total amount of that tuition paid to other institutions.

(c) Tuition rebates shall be reduced by the amount of any outstanding student loan, including an emergency loan, owed to or guaranteed by this state, including the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. If a student has more than one outstanding student loan, the institution shall apply the amount of the rebate to the loans as directed by the student. If the student fails to provide timely instructions on the application of the amount, the institution shall apply the amount of the rebate to retire the loans with the highest interest rates first.


Affected institutions have the following responsibilities associated with this program:

(1) All Texas public institutions of higher education, including community and technical colleges, shall include information regarding this program in the institution's catalog.
(2) If requested by potentially eligible students, public institutions of higher education are required to provide these students opportunities to enroll during each fall and spring semester in the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours that apply toward their degrees. Institutions are not required to provide students with the opportunity to enroll in specific courses or specific sections. Community and Technical Colleges will comply to the extent that courses for the current semester are being offered that apply to the student’s university degree program. The requirement may be met by allowing substitutions for required courses or by allowing concurrent enrollment in courses from another institution, so long as the courses are taught on the student’s home campus and the student incurs no financial penalty.

(3) Texas public universities are required to provide students with appropriate forms and instructions for requesting tuition reimbursement at the time that students apply for baccalaureate degrees.

(4) Institutions are required to provide tuition rebates to students who apply for them within 60 days after graduation or provide the student with a statement explaining the reason the student is ineligible for the rebate.

(5) Institutions are required to provide a dispute resolution process to resolve disputes related to local administration of the program.

(6) Disputes related to lower division credit transfer should be resolved in accordance with Coordinating Board rules, Chapter 4, Section 4.27 of this title (relating to Transfer of Lower Division Course Credit).

(7) Institutions may adopt policies and procedures for effectively administering the program. For example, institutions may require students to declare their intent to qualify for a tuition rebate early in their careers or register prior to the beginning of the semester.

13.86. Responsibilities of Students.

(a) Students desiring to qualify for tuition rebates are responsible for complying with all university rules and regulations related to administration of the program.

(b) Students desiring to qualify for tuition rebates are solely responsible for enrolling only in courses that will qualify them for the rebates.

(c) A student who has transferred from another institution of higher education is responsible for providing to the institution awarding the degree official transcripts from all institutions attended by the student.

(d) Students must apply for rebates prior to receiving their baccalaureate degrees on forms provided by the institution and must keep the institution apprized of their addresses for at least 60 days after their graduation date.
13.87. Source of Funding.

Tuition rebates shall be paid from institutional local funds. However, the enabling legislation provides that the Legislature shall account in the General Appropriations Act for the rebates in a way that provides a corresponding increase in the general revenue funds appropriated to the institution.