SB 28

TEXAS Grant College Readiness Reform Act

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

- ✓ The Texas Legislature concluded its 82nd regular session on May 30, setting priorities for the state for the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 biennium. While the budget dominated debate, the session produced some key policy changes that will greatly benefit students in higher education.
- ✓ The Legislature adopted SB 28, the TEXAS Grant College Readiness Reform Act. This reform is designed to reward financially-needy high school students who put in the hard work necessary to achieve college readiness, and to increase the state's return on its investment by prioritizing funding toward those students most likely to complete their degrees.
- ✓ As a need-based program, all TEXAS Grants will continue to serve students whose family resources only allow them to contribute $4,000 or less to their education.
- ✓ Specifically, this reform will require institutions to award TEXAS Grants first to eligible students who meet two of four academic criteria. These criteria include completing college-level course work; achieving a college readiness score on an approved test; ranking in the top third of a graduating class or earning a 3.0 GPA; and completing an advanced math course.
- ✓ Students who meet two of these four criteria are **twice as likely to earn their college degrees** than those who don't.
- ✓ This reform will ensure that these low-income, high-achieving students are first in line to receive the financial aid that could make their college dreams possible.
- ✓ The TEXAS Grant College Readiness Reform Act will apply beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year.