East Texas Regional Roundtable

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

The Student Success Agenda:

Improving Educational Outcomes

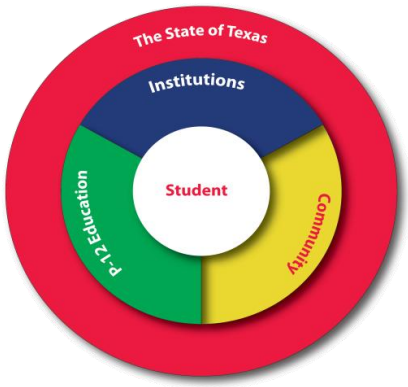
Commissioner Raymund Paredes
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

East Texas Regional Roundtable

The Student Success Agenda:

All stakeholders have a responsibility

To ensure the long-term educational and economic vibrancy of Texas, **many stakeholders** must **play an equal and integral part** in assuring the state meets the goals of *Closing the Gaps by 2015* and beyond.



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The Student Success Agenda:

Improving Educational Outcomes in East Texas

1 of 10
African Americans earn a degree/certificate

1 of 10
Hispanics earn a degree/certificate

1 of 5
Whites earn a degree/certificate

Less than 1 of 5
All East Texas Students earn a degree/certificate

Source: THECB, 7th Grade Cohort (FY 1998-FY 2009)

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The Student Success Agenda:

Better outcomes means higher quality of life

$16,234
Median Wage for **No HS Diploma**

$22,691
Median Wage for **HS Diploma**

$28,967
Median Wage for **Certificate**

$32,973
Median Wage for **Associate's Degree**

$37,544
Median Wage for **Bachelor's Degree**

Median Wage Income by Education Level
East Texas Region

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The Student Success Agenda:

Students who leave school with no credential carry a great financial burden

$13,134
Avg. Loan Debt
African American

$11,343
Avg. Loan Debt
Hispanic

$9,612
Avg. Loan Debt
White

$10,695
Avg. Loan Debt
All Students

Median Income
(HS Diploma, Some College)
$22,428

60% of non-completers had loan debt

NOTE: First-time, full-time undergraduates enrolling in Fall 2003 at TAMU-Commerce, UT-Tyler, and Stephen F. Austin that were no longer enrolled at any institution of higher education and **did not receive a degree** by Fall 2009. For this cohort, TAMU-Texarkana did not have a lower-division in Fall 2003 and were not included.

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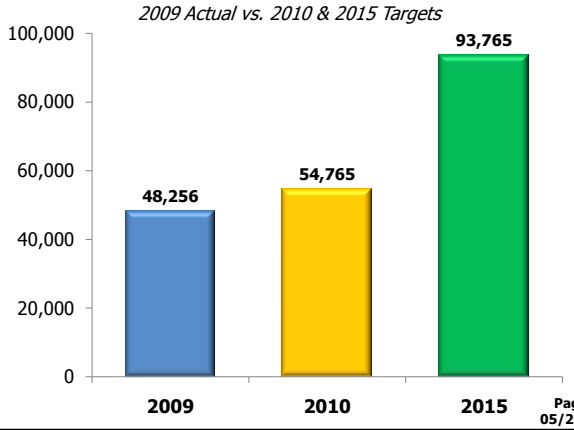
The Student Success Agenda:

Business as usual is no longer an option

✓ Texas and the region **must accelerate progress** if we are to meet our *Closing the Gaps* goals.

✓ For Texas to meet 2015 targets, we must **double current gains** in annual bachelor's, associate's and certificate awards.

Total Cumulative Increase in Bachelor's, Associate's and Certificates since 2000
2009 Actual vs. 2010 & 2015 Targets



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The Student Success Agenda:

Improving Educational Outcomes

To achieve the goals of *Closing the Gaps* and beyond, it is critical we **increase student success**, while **maintaining the gains in access**. To this end, the Coordinating Board is proposing a comprehensive agenda that includes:

- ✓ **Reforming** higher education funding models to promote student success (e.g. course and program completion).
- ✓ **Targeting** TEXAS Grants to low-income, college ready students.
- ✓ **Reinventing** developmental education.

- ✓ **Increasing** transfers from 2-year to 4-year institutions.
- ✓ **Institutionalizing** College & Career Readiness Standards and increasing teacher effectiveness.
- ✓ **Strengthening** a college and career-ready culture throughout Texas (e.g. GenTX campaign)

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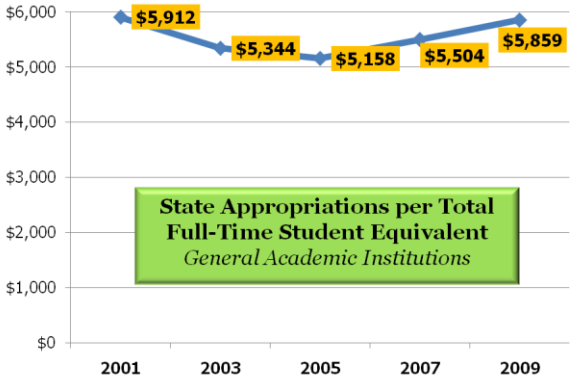
The Student Success Agenda:

Texas must do better with limited resources

Texas is facing very serious fiscal challenges over the next few years. The most recent estimates show the **budget shortfall could be in excess of $18 billion** by the start of next Legislative session.



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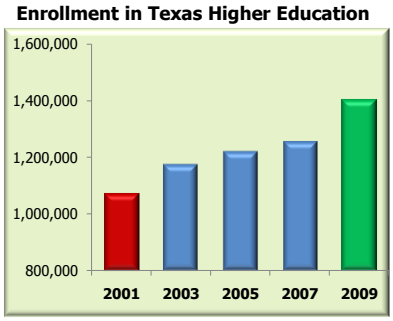
The Student Success Agenda:

Reforming Institutional Funding Models



Historically, funding models for higher education have been predicated on student access. Texas has made **very dramatic improvements in participation**. However, to meet the goals of *Closing the Gaps* and improve Texas' competitiveness in the global economy, we must **sharpen focus on student success**.

The Student Success Agenda:

Universities—Funding Course Completion

Currently, the university funding model is predicated on enrollment at the beginning of semester. Shifting to funding based on number of students who complete a course will place a **greater emphasis on promoting student success**.

- ✓ Fund based on **enrollment at end of semester**;
- ✓ Include a **supplement for at-risk students**;
- ✓ **Phase in over four years** - 25% per FY

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The Student Success Agenda:

Funding University Course Completion— The Questions

Question

Will funding course completion encourage faculty to give passing grades to all students?

Answer

No. Funding is predicated on enrollment at end of semester, not student performance.

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The Student Success Agenda:

Funding University Course Completion— The Questions

Question

Will the new funding methodology threaten fiscal predictability at institutions?

Answer

Only if institutions fail to adapt. The new funding model is no more variable than the existing model. If new enrollments fluctuate under current model, an institution can gain or lose funding.

EXAMPLE

Institution	FY 08-09	FY 10-11	Diff.	% Diff.
University A	$33.4M	$32.4M	**($1.0M)**	**(3%)**
University B	$32.7M	$31.5	**($1.2M)**	**(4%)**

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The Student Success Agenda:

Funding University Course Completion— The Questions

Question

Will institutions with a high number of at-risk students be disproportionately impacted?

Answer

No. The recommendations include a supplement for at-risk students in order to inject resources to help those populations.

The Coordinating Board recommendation for university funding includes a **supplement for students considered academically at-risk** for factors such as GED graduates, older first-time students, federal aid recipients, among others. The supplement is **designed to offset any impact** such students may have on course completion rates.

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The Student Success Agenda:

Funding University Course Completion— The Questions

Question

Some have argued that there is no direct correlation between funding completion and graduation rates. Is this true?

Answer

6-year graduation rates are affected by a number of variables, of which course completion is just one. But the more courses a student completes, the more likely a student will graduate.

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The Student Success Agenda:

Community Colleges—Funding Momentum

Community colleges have a dual mission and serve students seeking various educational outcomes. Funding students on educational milestones helps promote student success and **aligns funding with community college mission**.

✓ Educational Momentum milestones include: completing developmental education, completing 15/30 hours, transfers, earning certificate/degree, etc.;
✓ Funding momentum milestones **limited to 10% of base funding**

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Momentum Points

Funding student progression towards success

EXAMPLES

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The Student Success Agenda:

Funding Community College Momentum— The Questions

Question

Does the shift in the community college funding model mean too much change, too fast?

Answer

The Coordinating Board proposal recommends using only a small portion of base funding (10%) to be used for momentum points. Also, the Coordinating Board has amended its recommendation to push final implementation to the end of the biennium (FY 2013).

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The Student Success Agenda:

Funding Community College Momentum— The Questions

Question

Why couldn't the state fund momentum with additional funds above and beyond the base funding?

Answer

To achieve significant, long-term results for student success beginning today, we need to make structural changes to the base funding for all institutions, placing emphasis on student success and outcomes.

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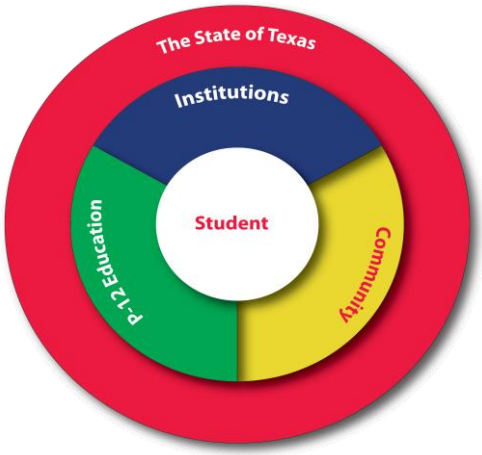
The Student Success Agenda:

Success in East Texas will help the state achieve its educational and workforce goals