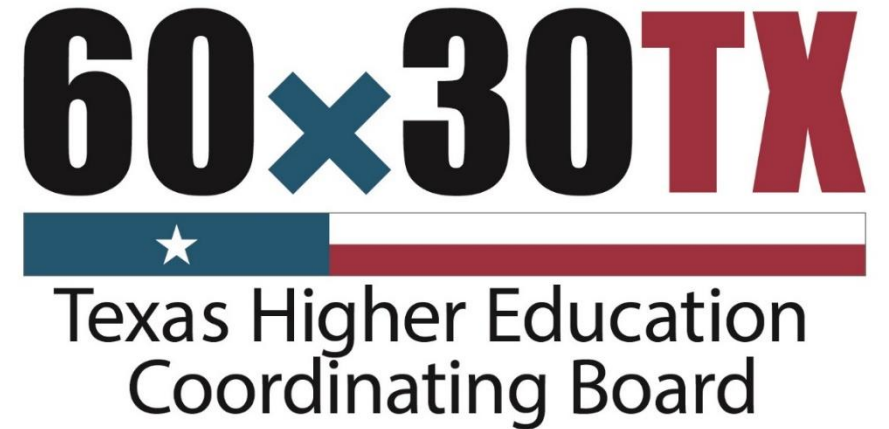


**Monitoring Interim Charge:
SB 2118, SB 802 and SB 810,
85th Texas Legislature**

Rex Peebles, Ph.D.

Assistant Commissioner for Academic
Quality and Workforce
August 22, 2018



SB 2118 – Community College Baccalaureate Programs

- The bill authorizes public community colleges that meet specific criteria to offer baccalaureate programs in applied science, applied technology, and nursing upon approval by the Coordinating Board.
- Previous law limited community college baccalaureate program offerings at Brazosport College, Midland College, Odessa College, and Tyler Junior College. These institutions may offer up to **five** baccalaureates
- SB 2118 allows all other community colleges to offer up to **three** baccalaureates

SB 2118 – Community College Baccalaureate Programs

The Board is required to apply the same criteria and standards used to approve baccalaureate degree programs at general academic teaching institutions and medical and dental units.



**Workforce
Needs**



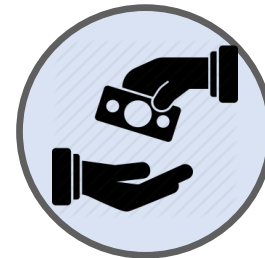
**Student
Demand**



**Program
Duplication**



**Qualified
Faculty**



**Costs and
Funding**



**Course
Delivery**



**Other
Resources**

- Accreditation
- Library Resources
- Facilities and Equipment

Additional Requirements for Community College Baccalaureate Program Approval

To be eligible to apply to offer a baccalaureate, a community college district must also meet the following requirements:



- **Taxable property valuation** of **not less than \$6 billion** in the preceding year and overall **financial health**
- Submit a report outlining the **long-term financial plan** for receiving **SACSCOC accreditation**
- Colleges may not charge students enrolled in baccalaureate programs higher **tuition and fees** than students enrolled in a similar associate degree program
- May be funded solely by a college's proportionate share of state appropriations, local funds, and private sources. Junior and Senior level courses are **weighted in the same manner as a lower division course** in a corresponding field.



- Submit a **long-term plan for faculty recruitment**



- Have at **least three articulation agreements** with universities or medical/dental units or explain why agreements are not available. The Board may not approve a new program if existing programs have capacity.
- Must enter into an articulation agreement for the **first five years** of offering a baccalaureate degree to ensure students have an opportunity to complete the degree if the college ceases to offer the degree.

Update on community college baccalaureate program proposals since the passage of SB 2118

Approved

- ✓ Austin Community College RN-BSN
- ✓ Galveston College BAT, Healthcare Administration
- ✓ Tyler Junior College BAT, Healthcare Technology and Medical Systems

Pending

- Grayson College RN-BSN
- Collin College RN-BSN
- Odessa College BAAS, Leadership and Management
- Odessa College BAAS, Automation

SB 802 - Best Practices in Transfer of Course Credit

- SB 802 requires the Coordinating Board to conduct a study to **identify best practices to ensure that courses transferred** to an institution of higher education for course credit, including courses for dual credit, **apply toward a degree program.**
- The study must **evaluate existing articulation agreements** governing the transfer of credit between institutions and **identify the institutions that are implementing best practices.**
- The Coordinating Board is required to submit the results of the study and any recommended legislative action to the Legislature by **November 1, 2018.**

SB 802 – Best Practices in Transfer of Course Credit

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

- Coordinating Board staff are in the process of evaluating twenty articulation agreements from ten institutions.
- The final report is scheduled to be considered by the Coordinating Board in late October.

SB 810 – Open Educational Resources

- SB 810 directs the Coordinating Board to establish a **grant program** to encourage faculty to adopt, modify, redesign, or develop courses that **use only open educational resources (OER)**.
- Faculty members who receive the grant shall ensure that any OER used is **provided to a student at no cost** other than the cost of printing. The agency has released a Request For Applications and is in the process of distributing the \$200,000 that was appropriated for this purpose.
- SB 810 requires the Coordinating Board to submit a report on the grant program to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2019
- SB 810 also directs the Board to develop a **feasibility study on establishing a state repository of open educational resources** that must consider:
 - ✓ Methods for facilitating public access to open educational resources
 - ✓ Resources needed to create the repository
 - ✓ Any potential challenges in creating the repository
- The Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for the study.

Texas Education Code, Section 51.451, defines OER as “a teaching, learning, or research resource that is in the public domain or has been released under an intellectual property license that permits the free use, adaptation, and redistribution of the resource by any person. The term may include full course curricula, course materials, modules, textbooks, media, assessments, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques, whether digital or otherwise, used to support access to knowledge.”

Recommendations on the feasibility of creating a statewide OER repository

After an analysis of the current research on OER repositories and the practice of their development and use, Board staff, in consultation with faculty and staff at Texas public institutions of higher education, relevant state agencies, textbook publishers, representatives of the OER community, and other stakeholders, makes the following recommendations regarding the feasibility of creating a statewide OER repository:

- Develop an open statewide portal where existing available OER can be accessed by faculty members, students, and others.
- Work with OER Commons or Texas Digital Library to develop and maintain the statewide portal.
- Ensure that the portal links to repositories including a wide range of open resources.
- Incentivize faculty to adopt resources through the portal, to contribute new or adapted resources to repositories available through it, and to submit reviews/evaluations on the portal of resources used.
- Require any resources developed with state funds be contributed to a repository available through the portal and be licensed through a Creative Commons license.
- Provide sufficient resources to create a long-term integrated portal and resource awareness program.
- Create a state OER Council to oversee and promote the use of OER statewide.
- Fund a new position of state Director/Coordinator of OER (either at the THECB or the Texas State Library & Archives Commission).

Exceptional Item Requests

- **\$250,000** for the development of an **OER Repository (and one FTE)** using OER Commons, an existing resource.
- **\$200,000 for OER Grant Program:** This would fund **additional grants to faculty for the development of OER course materials.**