Legislative Recommendations to the 86th Texas Legislature
Categorizing Recommendations

• **Category 1: Board/Commissioner**
  - Approval of New Off-Campus Sites
  - Texas WORKS Internship Program
  - 60x30TX Graduation Bonus
  - Improving Student Transfer

• **Category 2: Commissioner/Key Staff**

• **Category 3: Programmatic Staff**
Category 1

Major Policy Recommendations to Achieve 60x30TX
Approval of New Off-Campus Sites

Legislative Recommendation

• Require institutions obtain Coordinating Board review and approval prior to acquiring property to create a new or expand an existing off-campus academic, technical or research site. Limit the review and approval to sites that are not on or near the main campus. Provide for confidential and expedited review of proposed acquisitions.

• Ensure more efficient use of state resources and promotes objectivity in pursuit of 60x30TX goals.

• Prevent unnecessary duplication.
Texas WORKS Internship Program

Legislative Recommendations

• Modify the Texas College Work-Study program to institute Texas WORKS.
  • Texas WORKS will create a centralized off-campus work-study program to provide students with limited financial means an opportunity to pursue paid internships.

• Build on Tri-Agency findings and recommendations.

• Contribute to 60x30TX goals for marketable skills and student debt.
60x30TX Graduation Bonus

Legislative Recommendations

• Revise the Operations Support formula for universities to include an allocation methodology for graduates, in addition to enrollments.

• Award universities $500 per non at-risk graduate and $1,000 per at-risk graduate.

• Incorporate into introduced General Appropriations Act.

• Directly contribute to 60x30TX goal for increased degree completion.
Improving Student Transfer

Legislative Recommendations

• Restructure the core curriculum to help ensure students take courses that count toward their degrees. The more standardized the core is across institutions the easier it is to ensure the courses will apply to majors.

  - Create statewide specialized cores to narrow student choices to field of interest and get students on a general path to degree.

  - Consider reducing the number of hours in the core curriculum.

• Require institutions of higher education to embed information about field of study courses in degree programs posted on their websites and verify use of the field of study curriculum.

• Support an interactive online degree site that allows students to input their majors and receive a list of the required courses needed to complete a specific degree in four years.
Legislative Recommendations

• Support an **interactive online degree** site that allows students to input their majors and receive a list of the required courses needed to complete a specific degree in four years.

• Require institutions to provide program course requirements to THECB, including indicators of which courses satisfy the core curriculum and field of study curriculum.

• Study the feasibility of a **transfer admissions guarantee** and make recommendations to the Legislature about student and institutional criteria for such a system.
Category 2

Programmatic Enhancements to Effectiveness, Efficiency and Transparency
Compliance Monitoring

Legislative Recommendations

• Require institutions of higher education to report the receipt and determination of credible allegations of fraud, waste and abuse to the Coordinating Board.

• Government Code currently requires such reporting to the State Auditor’s Office but does not require SAO to share this information with the Coordinating Board.

• This would better inform the agency’s risk assessment process.
Incorporating Undergraduate Success into Doctoral Proposals

Legislative Recommendations

• Eliminate statute that forbids consideration of undergraduate graduation rates in reviewing doctoral program proposals.

• Was added as an amendment to the agency’s 2013 Sunset legislation.

• This would incentivize institutions with low undergraduate graduation rates to improve their undergraduate success before proposing new doctoral programs.
Demonstrate College Readiness for Dual Credit

Legislative Recommendation

• Require **high school students to demonstrate college readiness** as prescribed by the **Texas Success Initiative** which includes pathways such as the **SAT, ACT** and the **Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA)** in the disciplines they propose to take academic dual credit courses.

• Identify a means for public high school students to have the **opportunity to take the TSIA, SAT or ACT free of charge** at an appropriate point in their high school pathway. Any funding should be a “last dollar” effort intended to complement other free or subsidized testing opportunities.

• Expand the current requirement for students to **file a degree plan** at 30 semester credit hours to students enrolled in academic dual credit. Require institutions of higher education to document compliance.

• Continue to **support** and **expand access** to **Early College High Schools** with the structure and support mechanisms as currently structured by the Texas Education Agency.
Increasing Bonding Authority

Legislative Recommendations

• Modify statute to ensure the Coordinating Board retains adequate bonding authority to meet future student loan demands in an efficient manner.

• Increased demand for tax-exempt bonds creates risk of not obtaining adequate funding under current provisions.

• Increase the THECB statutory limit of $75 million per project to $200 million.
Legislative Recommendation

• Limit the total semester credit hours for which a student may receive a TEXAS Grant to 135 or 15 hours beyond degree requirements (current limit is 150 SCH).

• Expand TEOG eligibility for students enrolled in community college baccalaureate degree programs.
Nursing Shortage Reduction Program

Legislative Recommendations

• Consider how to more effectively allocate Nursing Shortage Reduction Program funding.

• Currently, institutions receive funds in advance to help pay for faculty and other costs, but must repay funds if they do not meet targets. But some institutions do not spend their money until they meet targets.

• Funding is also very variable from year to year, inhibiting long-term planning.

• Formula should be modified based on factors such as success in graduation and licensure.
Category 3
Statute Cleanup and Minor Revisions
Update Loan Program Statute

Legislative Recommendations

• Align statute relating to the student loan program with previous Constitutional amendments and current practices. Eliminate two programs that are not active (loan cancellation and college savings bonds).

• Mirrors proposal from 85th Texas Legislature.
Unnecessary Data Requests

**Legislative Recommendations**

- Remove current statutorily required data requests that are unnecessary or redundant.
- Recommendations developed by the data review negotiated rulemaking committee, which included a Coordinating Board staff member and institutional representatives.
Improvements to ApplyTexas

Legislative Recommendations

• Improve the TREx system to enable high schools to use the system established by the 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2006 (House Bill 1) so electronic data is transferred to institutions in a standardized format