

Legislative Update to
the Community, State
and Technical College
Liaison Meeting

October 2018



Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

86th Texas Legislature Key Dates

Pre-filing: November 12

86th Texas Legislature

Convenes: January 8

Last day to file legislation: March 8

Sine Die: May 27

Signing deadline: June 16

House Higher Education Interim Charges

- Evaluate Impacts of Hurricane Harvey on students and institutions
- Review current law and rules on sexual misconduct on campus.
- Examine all aspect of dual credit courses.
- Identify obstacles to innovation at institutions.
- Evaluate Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs).
- Monitor the implementation of 60x30TX and SB 2118 (community college baccalaureates)

Senate Higher Education Interim Charges

- Make recommendation to promote efficient transfer of coursework toward a degree.
- Consider the role of the state in overseeing new higher education locations.
- Review progress in achieving 60x30TX goals.
- Examine different models of student-focused funding, including competency-based and performance funding.
- Examine state and federal regulations for increased flexibility.
- Review dual credit opportunities throughout the state.

Coordinating Board Recommendations

Formula Funding Recommendations

Community Colleges

- Fund increase for projected growth and inflation
- Increase Student Success funding to \$215 per point
- Maintain Core Operations funding at current level

Technical Colleges

- Fund 35% of the returned value formula
- Fund increases for projected growth and inflation
- Fund dual credit hours on contact hour basis

State Colleges

- Fund projected growth and inflation

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.
- Contributes to 60x30TX goals for marketable skills and student debt.

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 FOSC courses in degree programs posted on their websites and verify use of FOSC.

Improving Student Transfer

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.

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.



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