THECB and the Texas Legislature

Role & Responsibility

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The Coordinating Board advises the Texas Legislature on a variety of higher education issues to include:

- ✓ Biennial formula funding recommendations for public institutions (funding levels and methodology)
- ✓ Financial aid policy
- ✓ Organization and structure of higher education
- ✓ Policy to facilitate meeting goals of state's higher education master plan (Closing the Gaps and its successor).

Key Fact: ***The Department of External Relations***, supported by every division in agency, facilitates interaction between the Legislature and Board leadership/Commissioner.

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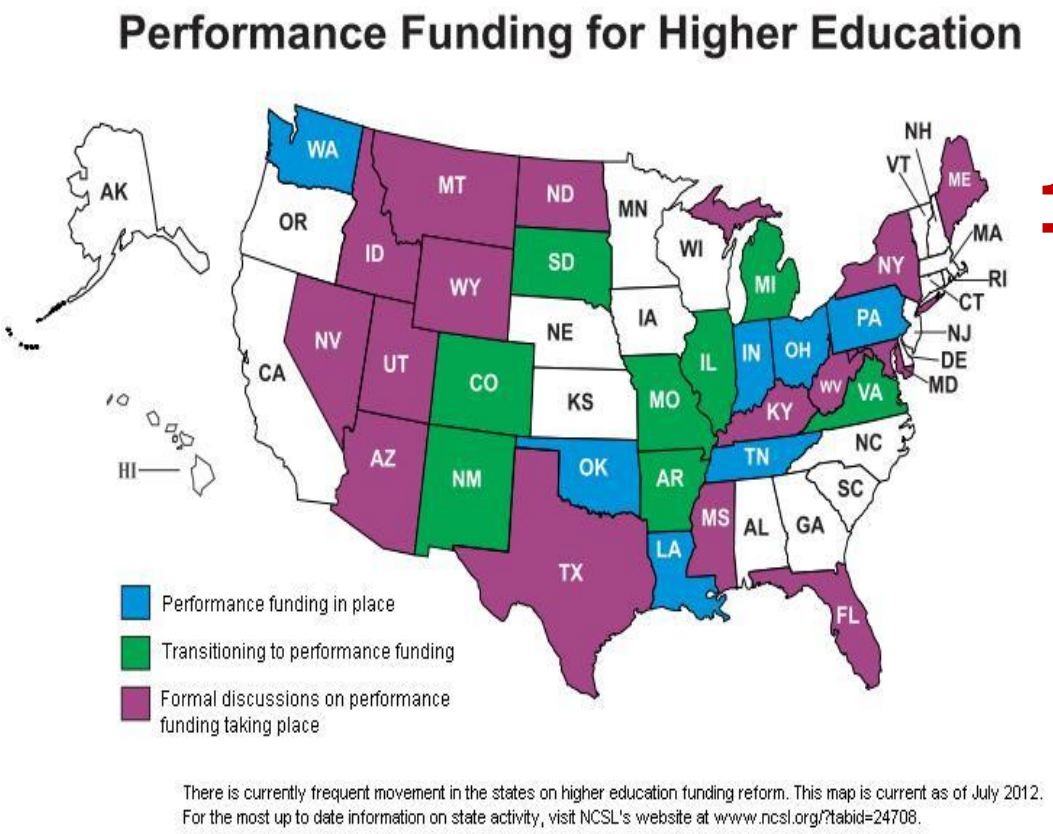
The Department of External Relations is responsible for key agency functions to include:

- ✓ Legislative Affairs
- ✓ Marketing
- ✓ Media Relations
- ✓ Stakeholder Relations (business community/public)
- ✓ Social Media and website content management
- ✓ Special projects (e.g. project management for Higher Education Almanac)

Key Fact: Agency engagement with higher education stakeholders ***is largely coordinated through agency divisions*** via advisory committees, stakeholder associations, and direct interaction with leaders.

Key Legislative Priorities



1. **Implement Outcomes-based Funding**
   - ✓ <u>Endorse</u> TACC "student success" model (including points for passing an English course)
   - ✓ <u>Endorse</u> TSTC "return-value" model

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Student Success Points

Measuring student attainment based on unique role of community and technical colleges

Developmental Education

Completion of development education in math, and English

(1 point each)

Gateway Course

Completion of first college level math and English course.

(1 point)

College Credit Attainment

Completion of first 15 college credits and first 30 college credits.

(1 point each)

Credentials Awarded

Completion of an associate degree, certificate , or bachelor's degree (where offered.)

(2 points each; 2.25 for STEM credentials)

Transfer to a General Academic Institution

Transfer to a general academic institution after having completed 15 hours of coursework.

(1 point)

Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language

Successful completion of an ABE or ESL sequence.

(Implementation pending new data collection)

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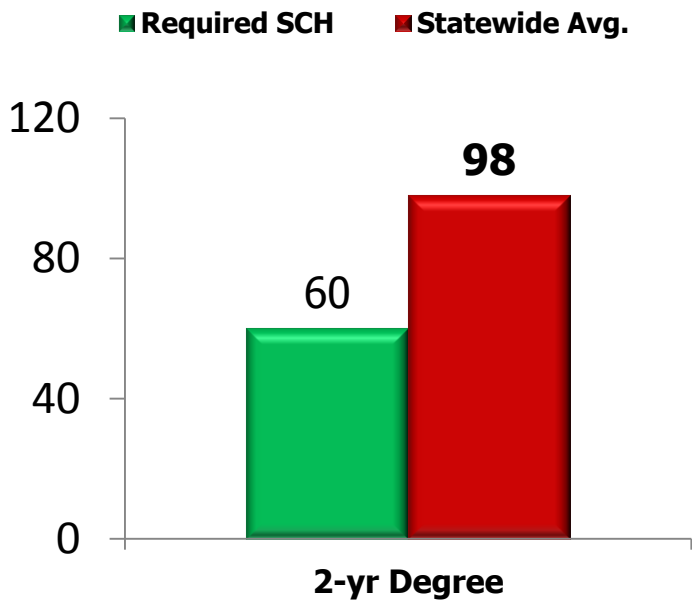
Key Legislative Priorities

2. Reduce Time-to-Degree

- ✓ Cap Associates Degree to <u>60 credit hours</u>
  - Allow flexibility for accreditation or licensure compliance only.



<u>Average Time to Degree</u>
Associates: 4.7 years

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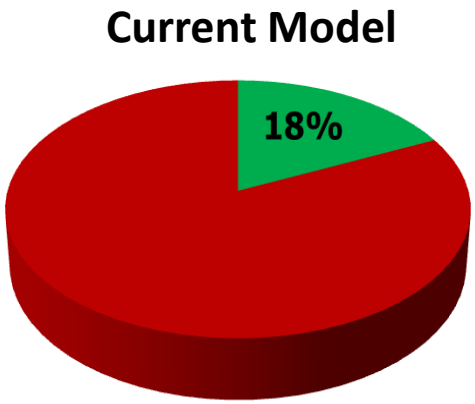
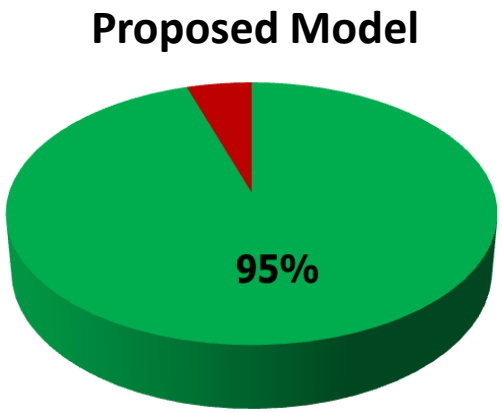
Key Legislative Priorities

3. Restructure Student Financial Aid

✓ Restructure the TEXAS Grant program

- Create eligibility pathway for transfer students
- Set award amount at statewide average tuition, fees, and books (academic costs), taking into account Pell and EFC
- Require full-time enrollment (12 SCH) and limit eligibility to 8 regular semesters
- Eliminate requirement that institutions provide non-loan funds to make up difference between a student's TX Grant award and tuition & fee charges
- **Limit the program to <u>university students only</u> and transfer funds that would have been allocated to community colleges to the TEOG program (approx. $36M)**





= % Projected Eligible New Students served with TEXAS Grant at THECB 2014-2015 LAR Request of $580.8M

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