

# OVERVIEW: TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD



DECEMBER 2016

## PURPOSE

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The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) was created by the Texas Legislature in 1965 to represent the highest authority in the state in matters of public higher education and is charged with the duty to take an active part in promoting quality education throughout the state. Most of the statutes that are applicable to the Coordinating Board are found in the Texas Education Code, Title 3, Section 61.

The Coordinating Board's overall responsibilities include (per Texas Education Code 61.051):

- Providing a statewide perspective to ensure the efficient and effective use of higher education resources and to eliminate unnecessary duplication;
- Developing and evaluating progress toward a long-range master plan for higher education and providing analysis and recommendations to link state spending for higher education with the goals of the long-range master plan;
- Collecting and making accessible data on higher education in the state and aggregating and analyzing that data to support policy recommendations;
- Making recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of transitions, including between high school and postsecondary education, between institutions of higher education for transfer purposes, and between postsecondary education and the workforce;
- Administering programs and trusteed funds for financial aid and other grants as necessary to achieve the state's long-range goals and as directed by the legislature;
- Developing a long-range master plan for Texas higher education that establishes long-term, measurable goals and provides strategies for implementing those goals;
- Assessing the higher education needs of each region of the state;
- Providing for regular evaluation and revision of the plan, as the board considers necessary, to ensure the relevance of goals and strategies;
- Taking into account the resources of private or independent institutions of higher education; and
- Evaluating the role and mission of each general academic teaching institution, other than a public state college, to ensure that the roles and missions of the institutions collectively contribute to the state's goals identified in the master plan.

## BOARD MEMBERSHIP

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The Board is made up of nine members appointed from across the state by the governor for staggered six-year terms. The governor also appoints the chair and vice chair.

In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed legislation to add a non-voting student representative to the Board, also appointed by the governor, for a one-year term beginning on June 1 and end on May 31.

The chairman appoints Board members to serve on committees. Standing committees include the Committee on Academic and Workforce Success (CAWS), Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning (CAAP), and the Agency Operations Committees (AOC).

Various advisory committees are appointed as necessary to provide guidance to the Board. Four of the advisory committees include at least one student representative as required by statute.

The Board is required to meet quarterly in Austin. Meetings are usually broadcast live via the Internet. Regular meetings are held in January, April, July, and October. Additional meetings may be called by the chair.

## ORGANIZATION

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Most Coordinating Board functions and staff fall under the direction of two deputy commissioners who report to the Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy/Chief Academic Officer oversees divisions for Academic Quality and Workforce, Strategic Planning and Funding, College Readiness and Success, and Innovation and Policy Development. Divisions under the Deputy Commissioner for Agency Operations and Communications/Chief Operating Officer are Financial Services (which includes student grant and loan functions), Information Solutions and Services, Human Resources, and External Relations. Reporting directly to the Board and to the Commissioner is the General Counsel and Internal Auditor.

## HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Texas has a total of 147 public and independent institutions of higher education.

**Public institutions:** The state has 105 total public higher education institutions: 38 public four-year universities and associated academic centers; three public state colleges; 50 public community college districts with multiple campuses; four public technical colleges; and 10 public health-related institutions.

**Independent institutions:** The state has 42 independent institutions: 38 independent universities; one junior college; one health-related institution; and two chiropractic institutions.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

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Among other responsibilities, the Coordinating Board:

- Reviews and recommends changes in formulas for allocating legislative appropriations to higher education institutions, and advise the governor and legislature on higher education funding needs.
- Provides statewide perspective to ensure the efficient and effective use of higher education resources and to eliminate unnecessary duplication.
- Provides Texans with information about preparing academically and financially for higher education.
- Develops a recommended core curricula to promote free transfer of course credit among Texas public higher education institutions.
- Conducts studies and make recommendations on achieving excellence in or improving higher education. Provides reports to the legislature on policy issues.
- Creates and publishes statewide standards for boards of regents to consider regarding capital projects.
- Administers the state's student financial aid programs, including the Toward EXcellence, Access, & Success (TEXAS) Grant Program, Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) and the Hinson-Hazlewood College Student Loan Program.
- Administers the Texas Success Initiative to help ensure new college students have the reading, writing, and math skills they need to do college-level work.
- Administers the state's Advanced Research Program, which awards competitive grants to researchers at Texas higher education institutions.
- Approves and monitors postsecondary technical/vocational educational programs and adult vocational education offerings.
- Approves degree programs at career colleges offering degree programs and regulates unaccredited private postsecondary institutions.

- Collects and reports data on higher education.
- Authorizes the creation of public community college districts and adopt standards for operating public community and technical colleges.
- Engages in the negotiated rulemaking process with affected stakeholders in the development of certain rules, policies and procedures.

A list of most of the Coordinating Board's statutory authority is in Subchapter C, Section 61.051 of the Texas Education Code.

### **Coordinating Board Members**

Robert "Bobby" Jenkins Jr., Chair (*Austin*)  
 Stuart W. Stedman, Vice-Chair (*Houston*)  
 David D. Teuscher, M.D, Secretary (*Beaumont*)  
 Haley E.R. De La Garza, Student Representative (*Victoria*)  
 Arcilia C. Acosta (*Dallas*)  
 S. Javaid Anwar, (*Midland*)  
 Fred Farias III, O.D. (*McAllen*)  
 Ricky A. Raven (*Sugar Land*)  
 Janelle Shepard (*Weatherford*)  
 John T. Steen Jr. (*San Antonio*)

### **Board Standing Committees**

#### **Committee on Academic and Workforce Success (CAWS)**

Janelle Shepard, Chair  
 Fred Farias III, O.D., Vice Chair  
 Arcilia C. Acosta  
 Ricky A. Raven  
 John T. Steen, Jr.  
 Haley E.R. De La Garza (Student Representative), Ex-Officio  
 Robert "Bobby" Jenkins Jr., Ex-Officio

#### **Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning (CAAP)**

David D. Teuscher, M.D., Chair  
 S. Javaid Anwar, Vice Chair  
 Arcilia C. Acosta  
 Janelle Shepard  
 Stuart W. Stedman  
 Haley E.R. DeLaGarza (Student Representative), Ex-Officio  
 Robert "Bobby" Jenkins, Jr., Ex-Officio

#### **Agency Operations Committee (AOC)**

John T. Steen, Jr., Chair  
 David D. Teuscher, M.D., Vice Chair  
 S. Javaid Anwar  
 Fred Farias III, O.D.  
 Ricky A. Raven  
 Stuart W. Stedman  
 Haley E.R. De La Garza (Student Representative), Ex-Officio  
 Robert "Bobby" Jenkins, Jr., Ex-Officio

## **Executive Officers**

Dr. Raymund A. Paredes  
*Commissioner of Higher Education*

Dr. David Gardner  
*Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy/Chief Academic Officer*

Linda Battles  
*Deputy Commissioner for Agency Operations and Communications/Chief Operating Officer*

Bill Franz  
*General Counsel*

Dr. Julie Eklund  
*Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Funding*

Zhenzhen Sun  
*Interim Assistant Commissioner for Information Solutions and Services*

Jerel Booker  
*Assistant Commissioner for College Readiness and Success*

Ken Martin  
*Assistant Commissioner for Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer*

Dr. Rex C. Peebles  
*Assistant Commissioner for Academic Quality and Workforce*

John Wyatt  
*Director, External Relations*

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