

Texas Commission on Community College Finance

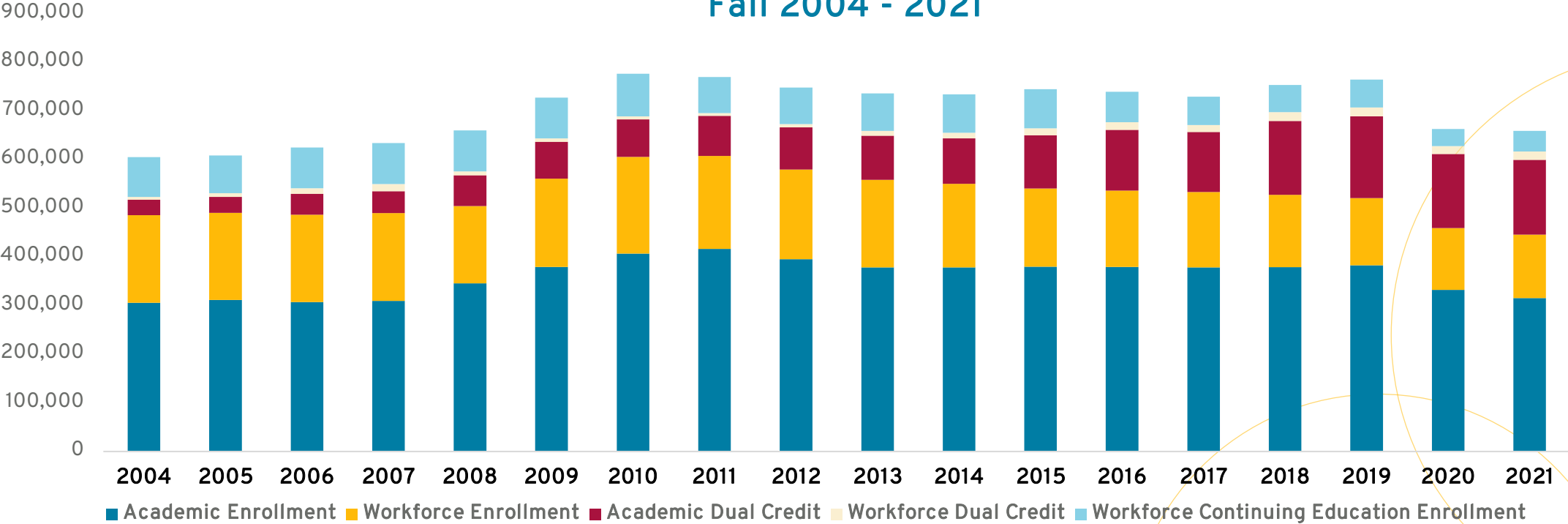
Update to the Commission

Commissioner Harrison Keller, Ph.D.

June 21, 2022

This academic year, Texas community college enrollments were at their lowest since 2008-09

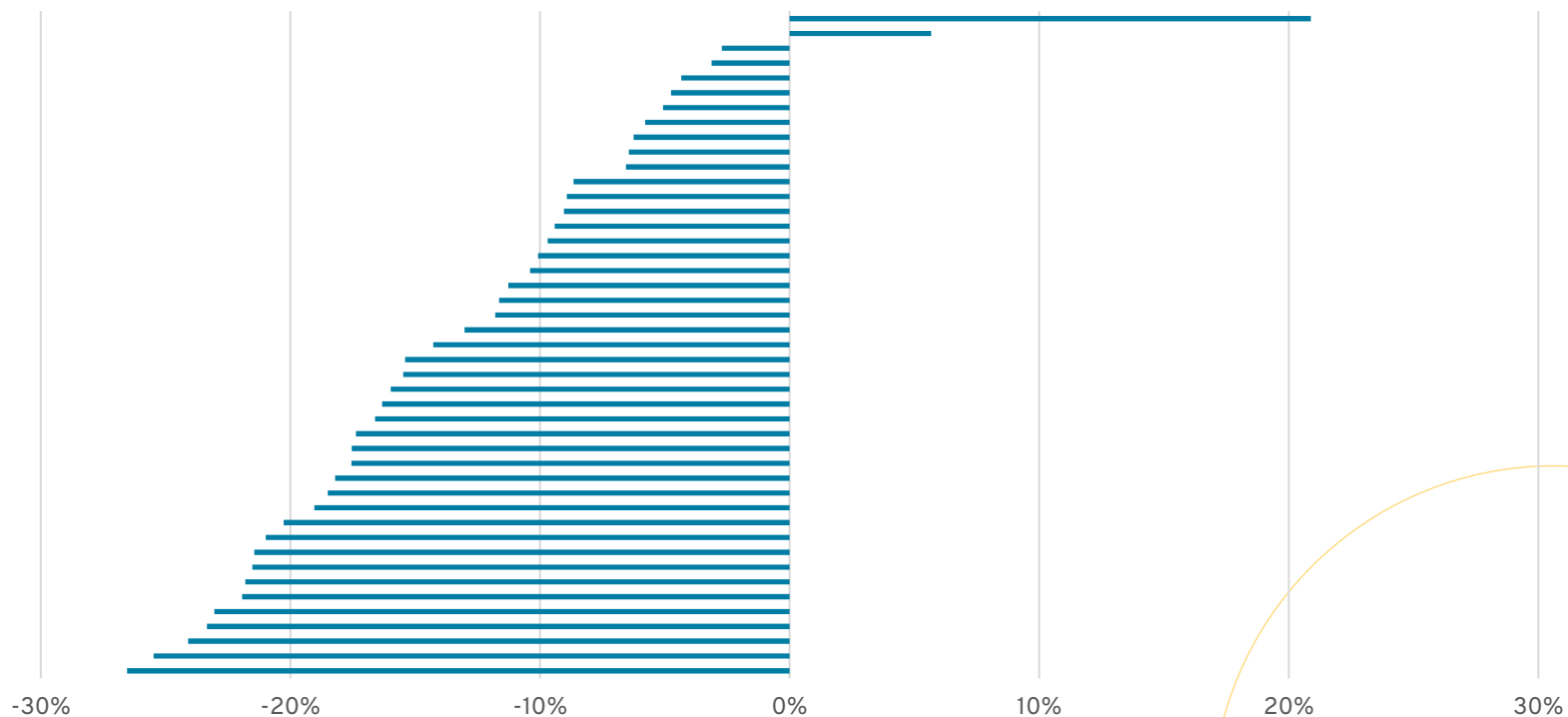
Workforce Continuing Education, Enrollment, and Dual Credit
Fall 2004 - 2021



- Academic enrollments excluding dual credit declined by 100,728 from their peak in Fall 2011 to Fall 2021.
- Traditional and continuing workforce education declined by 113,180 from their peak in Fall 2010 to Fall 2021.

Update: Spring 2022 Institutional Enrollments (Preliminary Data)

Percent Change in Preliminary Spring Enrollments
(Traditional, Dual Credit, and Continuing Education)
Spring 2022 over Spring 2020



Preliminary spring enrollment reports show the vast majority of community colleges have experienced continued enrollment declines since Spring 2020.

Update: Community College Needs & Opportunities Listening Sessions

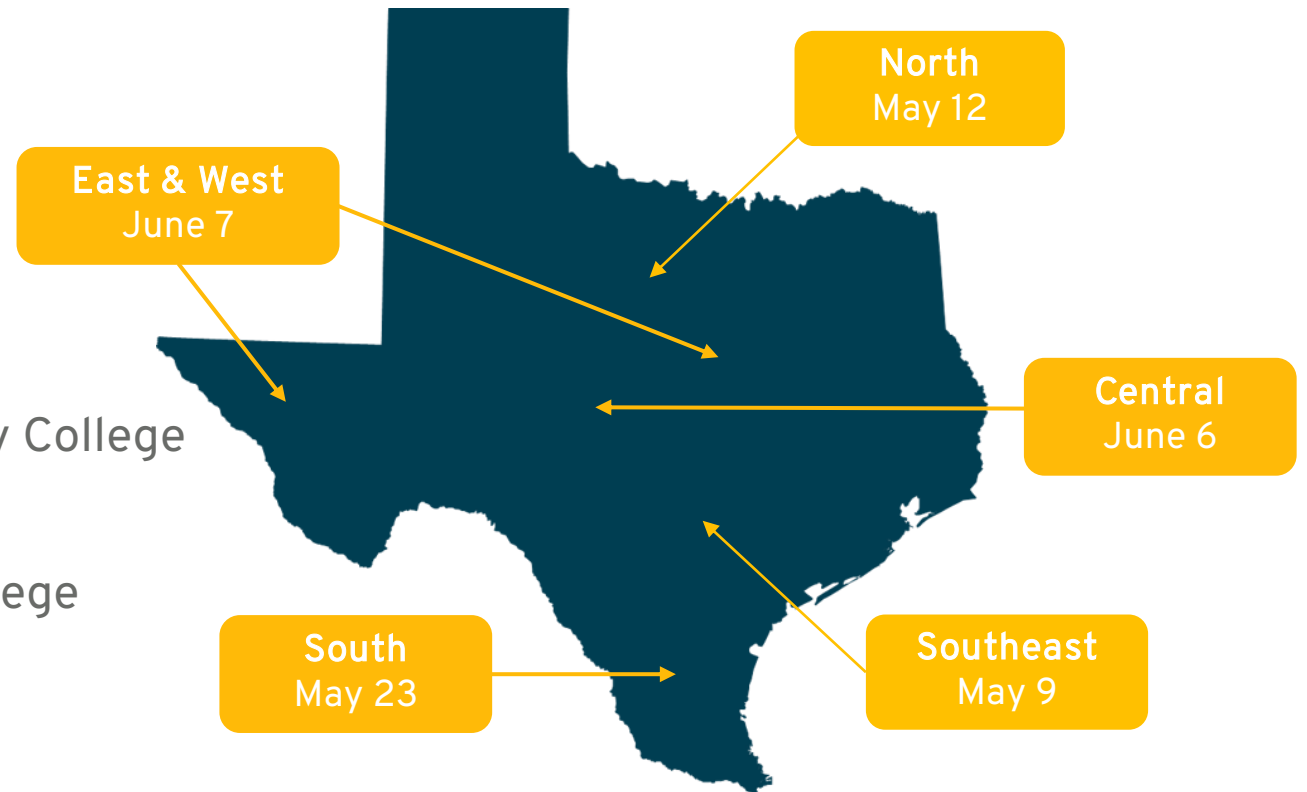
Aims

- Understand **operational needs and opportunities**, especially for small, mid-sized, and rural serving colleges
- **Inform college operations workgroup** as they develop recommendations for the commission and the upcoming legislative session
- **Identify near-term opportunities for THECB** to better support small, mid-sized, and rural-serving community colleges

Community College Needs & Opportunities Listening Sessions

Steering Committee

- **Rufus Glasper** – League for Innovation at the Community College
- **Steve Head** – Lone Star College
- **Tamar Jacoby** – Opportunity America
- **Brenda Kays** – Kilgore College
- **Johnette McKown** – McClennan Community College
- **Jeremy McMillen** – Grayson College
- **Roberto Rodriguez** – Texas Southmost College
- **Wynn Rosser** – TLL Temple Foundation
- **Myles Shelton** – Galveston College
- **Greg Williams** – Odessa College



Listening Sessions: Key Themes

Across each session, community college leaders shared perspectives about significant needs and cost pressures, including:

Workforce education options that are responsive to changing labor markets and local industry needs

Increased costs of upgrading and maintaining **facilities** and **equipment**

Costs of **technology** that keeps pace with ongoing innovations

Attracting, supporting, and retaining faculty **talent** especially in rural areas

Increased demand for **student support services**, especially mental health services

Burden of high discount rates for **dual credit programs** and associated costs, with wide-ranging funding agreements with local school districts

High enrollments **outside taxing districts** and disparity among community college tax bases

Listening Sessions: Opportunities

College leaders expressed **openness to collaborate** and suggested multiple areas that might be conducive to **shared services**, as long as services provided would improve student services and reduce costs for colleges.

Options to explore might include:

- Collaborative **course sharing** for digital courses, materials, and faculty resources.
- Shared approaches to **expanded student services** with qualified support staff
- **Information technology** purchasing, infrastructure, and IT support
- **Facilities, equipment, and other resources** such as mobile workforce training labs

Update: Research In Progress

Ongoing research on college enrollments, outcomes, and costs will provide important new insights into community college finance for the commission, upcoming policy deliberations, and implementation of a new system.

SAMPLE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How do college resources vary with respect to students, scale, context?

Which student characteristics seem to impact student outcomes the most?

What are the differences in costs of serving students with different needs, and in different institutional contexts?

SAMPLE FACTORS

- First-generation college students
- Low-income students
- Adult/non-traditional students
- English Language Learners
- Part-time students
- Small or mid-sized college

Looking Ahead: Design Criteria and Implementation Principles

DESIGN

- Focus state funding primarily on individual colleges' outcomes, while advancing state higher education goals.
- Bolster workforce development to meet regional and state workforce needs.
- Ensure access to academic and workforce opportunities, including students served by small, mid-sized, and rural serving colleges.
- Prioritize student affordability and recognize variations in costs of supporting students with different educational needs.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Phase in to limit negative consequences.
- Incorporate evidence-based adjustments related to student needs and diseconomies of scale.
- Ensure stability and predictability, e.g. in cases of sudden enrollment declines.
- Provide current enrollment and outcomes data, including labor market information.
- Monitor impact on student affordability, production of credentials, workforce needs, and access to programs.

Questions?