

Texas Community Colleges: Policy Priorities for the 86th Legislature

Funding: Investing in Texas Community Colleges

Texas community colleges respectfully seek an 8%, or \$144 million, overall increase in state formula funding for the 2020-2021 biennium. This funding ask is supported by all 50 public community colleges of Texas and mirrors the recommendations of the Community and Technical Colleges Formula Advisory Committee. The recommended funding level includes projected growth in contact hours and student success points and inflationary increases.

For the fourth consecutive legislative session, community colleges will continue to support performance-based funding. However, we respectfully ask the 86th Legislature to support increasing the biennial rate for Success Points from the current \$173 to \$215 per point. The Texas Association of Community Colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board are aligned on this recommendation and during 2018 co-convened a Metrics Task Force to ensure the relevance and validity of all metrics included in the Success Points formula.

Dual Credit: Broadening Access and Sustaining Quality

Texas community colleges support dual credit as both a proven means for students to earn college credit even while they are still in high school, and as an important factor in meeting the state's 60X30TX plan.

To broaden the reach of dual credit and sustain program quality, TACC recommends:

- 1) Establishing a state goal for dual credit: By 2030, no less than 30% of high school graduates will have earned at least 12 semester credit hours (SCH) in dual credit.
- 2) Establishing a state task force to include the THECB, Texas Education Agency, Texas Workforce Commission, and stakeholders from K-12 and higher education to study equitable access to quality dual credit programs across the state and the role of dual credit in meeting the goals of the 60X30TX plan.
- 3) Requiring dual credit students to declare a meta-major/field of study upon completion of 12 SCH in core academic subjects or declare a career path upon completion of 12 SCH in career and technical education (CTE).
- 4) Broadening dual credit access by expanding student eligibility for the Texas Education Opportunity Grant (TEOG) program to high school students enrolled in dual credit for up to 12 SCH in core academic transfer subjects or in CTE courses leading to certifications.

Workforce Education: The Critical Role of Community Colleges

Educating the Texas workforce continues to be a point of pride and high priority for Texas community colleges. This includes expanding career and technical education (CTE) dual credit offerings and workforce continuing education (CE).

Texas community colleges partner with the Texas Workforce Commission to deliver workforce training through two programs: Skills Development Fund (SDF) and Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant. TACC recommends increased state investments in community college formula funding, to help broaden the reach of their CTE and CE programs, and sustained state funding for SDF and JET.

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