

Texas Community Colleges: Policy Priorities for the 86th Legislature

Funding: Investing in Texas Community Colleges



Texas community colleges applaud the House and Senate leadership for recommending a 1.36% funding increase in HB 1 and SB 1 for the 2020-2021 biennium. Both bills increase formula funding for community and junior colleges by \$24 million above the 2018-2019 biennial levels.

Acknowledging that access, affordability and relevance are critical to students and communities, we seek an additional \$113 million funding increase for the 2020-2021 biennium. This request mirrors the recommendations of the Community and Technical Colleges Formula Advisory Committee and will help ensure that Texas community colleges continue to provide robust postsecondary education and workforce training programs to all Texans.

Performance-based Funding: For the fourth consecutive legislative session, community colleges will continue to support performance-based funding. Most colleges have realized increases in their respective success points across the established performance metrics. However, funding for performance-based funding has not kept pace with the actual biennial gains in success points achieved. We respectfully ask the 86th Legislature to support increasing the biennial rate for success points from the current \$171.56 to \$215 per point. The higher rate, which is also recommended by THECB, would add \$47 million for success points and would increase the percentage allocated by performance-based funding from 10.4% to 12.7%.

Dual Credit: Broadening Access and Sustaining Quality



Texas community colleges support dual credit as a proven means for students to earn college credit while 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**, **CCATT** and **TCCTA** recommend:

- 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, TEA, TWC, 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 15 SCH in core academic subjects or declare a career path upon completion of 15 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 15 SCH in core academic transfer subjects or in CTE courses leading to certifications.

Workforce Education: Focusing on Relevant Skills



Educating the Texas workforce continues to be a 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 TWC 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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