

Community College Service Areas Legislative History

Texas community college service areas were established by the 74th Texas Legislature (1995) through the enactment of [Senate Bill 397](#) authored by Sen. Bill Ratliff and sponsored by Rep. Tom Craddick. Prior to the codification of service areas in statute, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board designated a "Primary Service Area Population" for each college, defined as:

- The county in which the college is physically located;
- Counties from which at least 5% of the student population is drawn; and
- Population of adults aged 18-64 years.

Per the Bill Analysis of SB 397, creation of delineated community college service areas was sought to avoid duplication of services.

Since the creation of service areas in 1995, subsequent legislatures have amended service area boundaries multiple times; these amendments are listed chronologically below.

75 th Legislature (1997)		
SB 109	By: Sen. Haywood	SP: Rep. Chisum
Affected Colleges:	Clarendon College Frank Phillips College	
Rationale/Effect:	Under the provisions SB 397 (74R), Pampa ISD was inadvertently placed in the Frank Phillips College District Service Area while the remainder of Gray County was put in the Clarendon College District Service Area.	
	S.B. 109 includes Gray County among the list of counties serviced by the Clarendon College District.	
HB 385	By: Rep. Krusee	SP: Sen. Ogden
Affected Colleges:	Austin Community College Temple College	
Rationale/Effect:	In 1997, the Williamson County school districts of Georgetown, Hutto, and Thrall were in Austin Community College's (ACC) service area. It was noted that these communities were located a considerable distance away from the nearest ACC campus and because they were not in the ACC taxing district, they are subject to higher, out-of-district tuition rates and fees. Several Williamson County communities expressed an interest in being jointly served by Temple College and ACC. Supporters said, that by using these school districts' existing infrastructure, Temple would be able to offer in-district rates, without taxing the residents of these communities.	

H.B. 385, as introduced, sought to allow the school districts of Georgetown, Hutto, and Thrall to be located in both the service areas of Temple College and Austin Community College; however, the final bill transferred the Granger, Hutto, and Thrall independent school districts from the Austin Community College District service area to the Temple College District service area.

77th Legislature (2001)

[HB 2349](#)

By: Rep. Hilderbran SP: Sen. Fraser

Affected Colleges: Austin Community College
Central Texas College

Rationale/Effect: Prior to the 77th Legislature, the Marble Falls Independent School District (MFISD) was served by Austin Community College (ACC). Supporters of HB 2349 contended that, since the ACC campus was approximately 40 miles away from Marble Falls, MFISD patrons and students might not have benefited from ACC's programs as much as they may have benefited from programs offered at Central Texas College (CTC) located in Burnet, approximately 10 miles from Marble Falls. House Bill 2349 reassigned MFISD from ACC's service area to CTC's service area.

[HB 3258](#)

By: Rep. Green SP: Sen. Armbrister

Affected Colleges: Austin Community College
Victoria College

Rationale/Effect: Previously, the Nixon-Smiley Consolidated Independent School District (NSCISD) was located within the Victoria College District service area. House Bill 3258 transferred the territory within NSCISD in Gonzales County from the Victoria College District service area to the Austin Community College District service area.

[SB 1014](#)

By: Sen. Ogden SP: Rep. Kolkhorst

Affected Colleges: Blinn College
Temple College

Rationale/Effect: Supporters of the bill noted that Rockdale Independent School District (ISD) was within the Blinn College service area but was much closer to the Temple College campuses in Cameron and Taylor. S.B. 1014 transferred Rockdale ISD into the Temple College service area from the Blinn College service area.

78th Legislature (2003)

[SB 437](#)

By: Sen. Lindsay SP: Rep. Callegari

Affected Colleges: Lone Star College

Rationale/Effect: In 2003, Texas law did not include Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District in the North Harris Montgomery Community College

District (now Lone Star College) service area. Through an election held in August 2000, Cypress-Fairbank ISD was added to the Lone Star College service area. S.B. 437 codified the election result to include Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in the service area of Lone Star College.

79th Legislature (2005)

[SB 1193](#)

By: Sen. Wentworth **SP: Rep. Kuempel**

Affected Colleges: Alamo Colleges
Austin Community College

Rationale/Effect: In 2005, the service area for Austin Community College included all of Hays County, but a portion of two precincts of the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District lie within Guadalupe County, a county that was wholly listed within the Alamo Community College District. Supporters said the change of community college service area designation for a portion of two voter precincts within Guadalupe County, from the service area of the Alamo Colleges District was needed if the whole of the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District was to be allowed the opportunity to vote in an annexation election to join the Austin Community College taxing district. Without the change, a portion of the residents of the school district would not be included in the community college taxing district and would not be eligible for in-district tuition.

The bill transferred the portion of the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District that is located in Guadalupe County from the Alamo Colleges District service area to the Austin Community College District service area.

[SB 929](#)

By: Sen. Ellis **SP: Rep. Turner**

Affected Colleges: Houston Community College

Rationale/Effect: In May 2000, the Houston Community College System added the municipality of Missouri City to its jurisdiction through a municipal election. Texas law at the time did not place Missouri City, which is within the Fort Bend Independent School District, within a community college district.

The bill included the part of the Fort Bend Independent School District that is located in the municipality of Missouri City in the service area of the Houston Community College System District.

[HB 381](#)

By: Rep. Kolkhorst **SP: Sen. Armbrister**

Affected Colleges: Blinn College

Rationale/Effect: Supporters of the bill noted that much of Austin County had not been assigned to a particular community college service area. The bill assigned Austin County, other than the territory within the Wallis-

Orchard Independent School District, to the Blinn College District service area.

HB 776	By: Rep. Howard	SP: Sen. Janek
Affected Colleges:	Wharton County Junior College	
Rationale/Effect:	The bill expanded the Wharton County Junior College District's service area to include the incorporated area and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Sugar Land that is located in Fort Bend County.	
HB 1274	By: Rep. Hardcastle	SP: Sen. Estes
Affected Colleges:	Ranger College	
Rationale/Effect:	Prior to the bill, Young County was in the service area of Ranger College. Supporters of HB 1274 said many residents in Young County expressed a desire to expand the educational opportunities for their high school students and to offer courses for associate degrees.	
	The bill removed the Graham Independent School District territory that is located in Young County from the Ranger College District service area. Graham ISD was subsequently added to the North Central Texas College District (See SB 179 (82R)).	

80th Legislature (2007)

HB 1374	By: Rep. Swinford	SP: Sen. Seliger
Affected Colleges:	Amarillo College Frank Phillips College Midland College Odessa College	
Rationale/Effect:	The bill transferred the portion of Moore County in the Dumas ISD from the Frank Phillips College District service area to the Amarillo College District service area. It also transferred Terrell County and Iraan from the Odessa College District service area to the Midland College District service area.	
HB 3236	By: Rep. Cook	SP: Sen. Hegar
Affected Colleges:	Austin Community College Blinn College	
Rationale/Effect:	Supporters of the bill noted that the district lines of Blinn College and Austin Community College were drawn so that students in certain school districts may be divided among different community colleges. The bill sought to remedy these overlaps.	
	The bill transferred the parts of the Lexington Independent School District (ISD) that are located in Bastrop and Williamson Counties from the Austin Community College District service area to the Blinn College District service area and transferred the part of the Elgin ISD that is	

located in Lee County and the part of the Smithville ISD that is located in Fayette County from the Blinn College service area to the ACC service area. The bill also included the part of the Lexington ISD that is located in Milam County, which previously was not within any junior college district's service area, in the Blinn College service area.

82nd Legislature (2011)

[SB 179](#)

By: Sen. Estes

SP: Rep. Hardcastle

Affected Colleges: North Central Texas College

Rationale/Effect: A branch campus maintenance tax proposal was submitted by North Central Texas College District to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for a Fall 2009 election and the citizens of the Graham Independent School District responded with an almost 75 percent approval vote.

The bill added the territory within the part of the Graham Independent School District that is located in Young County to the service area of the North Central Texas College District.

83rd Legislature (2013)

[SB 1855](#)

By: Sen. Eltife

SP: Rep. Lavender

Affected Colleges: Texarkana College

Rationale/Effect: Prior to the 83rd Legislative Session, Bowie County residents voted to annex all of Bowie County into the Texarkana College District.

The bill expanded the Texarkana College District's taxing district to include all of Bowie County, rather than only part of the municipality of Texarkana and part of the Pleasant Grove Independent School District, and authorized the college district's governing board by resolution or board order to decrease the number of board members from nine to seven, with four members elected from respective commissioner precincts and three members elected at large. The bill required the resolution or order to establish transition terms of office to conform to elections held in even-numbered years and staggered six-year terms.

[HB 407](#)

By: Rep. King

SP: Sen. Birdwell

Affected Colleges: Weatherford College

Rationale/Effect: Supporters of the bill observed that only a handful of counties were left outside of a district service area following the creation of service areas in 1995, one of which was Hood County.

The bill added the territory within Hood County to the service area of the Weatherford College District.

[HB 3659](#)

By: Rep. Reynolds

SP: Sen. Ellis

Affected Colleges: Houston Community College

Rationale/Effect: Citing a need for increased cooperation between educational institutions, supporters of the bill contended that the students of Fort Bend Independent School District would benefit from collaboration with the Houston Community College System.

The bill added the territory within the part of the Fort Bend Independent School District that is located in the municipalities of Houston and Pearland to the Houston Community College System District's service area.

84th Legislature (2015)

[SB 495](#)

By: Sen. Watson

SP: Rep. Miller

Affected Colleges: Austin Community College
Central Texas College
Victoria College

Rationale/Effect: The bill transferred the territory within Gillespie County from the Austin Community College District service area to the Central Texas College District service area and transferred the territory within the part of the Nixon-Smiley Consolidated Independent School District located in Gonzales County from the Austin Community College District service area to The Victoria College District service area.

Per the supporters of the bill, Central Texas College and Victoria College requested changes to their respective service areas in order to increase efficiency in delivering higher education in the region. All parties agreed that the changes were mutually beneficial.