



THE 87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION RECAP | 2021



Texas Association of
Community Colleges



The 87th Texas Legislature gavelled in its Regular Session on January 12, 2021, amid a global pandemic and resultant economic downturn. Despite physical and budgetary limitations imposed by the pandemic, legislators pressed ahead, passing over one-thousand pieces of legislation including a \$249B biennial budget for 2022-2023.

Faced with sharp enrollment declines and the potential for resulting funding cuts, Texas community colleges entered the session with a focused agenda of maintaining state support and meeting the workforce challenges presented by the pandemic. While work remains to be done, community colleges came away from session with a modest increase in state appropriations as a sector and successfully advanced a significant workforce initiative, the TRUE Program.



SENATE BILL 1

THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The General Appropriations Act, or SB 1, provides funding for the 2022-23 biennium. All funds for the entire state budget total \$248.6 billion from all fund sources, a decrease of \$13.6 billion (5.2%) from the 2020-21 biennium. General Revenue funds for the entire state budget total \$163.8 billion for the 2022-23 biennium, a \$2 billion (1.2%) increase from 2020-22. (Source: Highlights of the Appropriations for the 2022-23 Biennium, Legislative Budget Board, May 2021)

Community College Instructional Appropriation

The instructional appropriation for community colleges is \$1.844 billion, a \$5.2 million increase from 2020-21 biennium. Despite this overall increase, 24 college districts saw a cut in instructional appropriations relative to the 2020-21 biennium.

Appropriators made significant changes to the balance between funding strategies for community colleges, placing greater emphasis on Student Success Points. \$86.5 million in appropriations were rededicated to Student Success Points, resulting in a \$1.447 billion appropriation to Contact Hour funding and \$314.8 million in Student Success Points. The increase in Student Success Points funding resulted in a rate of \$253.65 per point, an increase of \$51.15 per point. Funding for Core Operations was held flat at \$68.0 million.

* Final SB1 runs by college on pages 16 - 17

FORMULA ITEMS

	FY 20-21 Biennium (millions)	Final SB1 Conference Report (FY 22-23)	Final SB1 Difference from FY 20-21
Core Operations	\$68.0	\$68.0	\$0
Contact Hours	\$1,533.7	\$1,447.2	(\$86.5)
Bachelor of Applied Technology	\$3.3	\$3.4	\$0.1
Student Success Points	\$228.3 (\$202.50 per SSP)	\$314.8 (\$253.65 per SSP)	\$86.5
95% Formula Hold Harmless	\$1.9	\$0.0	(\$1.9)
Need-Based Supplement (New, 11 colleges only)	N/A	\$11M	\$11M
TOTAL*	\$1,839.2 M	\$1,844.4 M	\$5.2 M

*Instructional Appropriation, excludes non-formula support items and HEGI

NON-FORMULA ITEMS

Alamo: Veteran's Assistance Centers	\$7,710,960
Howard: Southwest College for the Deaf	\$6,652,806
Austin: Texas Innovative Adult Career Education	\$4,332,000
Austin: Virtual College of Texas	\$833,910
Dallas: Small Business Development Center	\$3,107,231
Dallas: Starlink	\$556,583
Angelina: Texas Community College Consortium	\$2,375,000
Houston: Regional Response Emergency Training Center	\$2,375,000
Brazosport: Catalyst Program	\$950,000
Hill: Heritage Museum & Geneology Center	\$617,743
Midland: Permian Basin Petroleum Museum	\$615,707
Grayson: Munson Viticulture & Enology Center	\$606,480
Laredo: Import/Export Training Center	\$282,328
NCTC: Texas Medal of Honor Museum	\$5,000,000

TOTAL

\$36,015,748

CONTACT HOUR CHANGE

2019 TO 2021

COLLEGE	BY19 TO BY21 % CHANGE
Alamo	-6.90%
Alvin	-12.38%
Amarillo	-17.71%
Angelina	-11.22%
Austin	0.11%
Blinn	-7.52%
Brazosport	-16.46%
Central Texas	-20.63%
Cisco	-9.54%
Clarendon	-13.43%
Coastal Bend	-10.11%
College of the Mainland	-6.89%
Collin	1.72%
Dallas	-13.12%
Del Mar	-4.12%
El Paso	-11.16%
Frank Phillips	9.88%
Galveston	-4.40%
Grayson	-10.54%
Hill	-14.78%
Houston	-16.32%
Howard	-28.71%
Kilgore	-3.08%
Laredo	-11.56%

COLLEGE**BY19 TO BY21
% CHANGE**

Lee	-5.90%
Lone Star	-4.32%
McLennan	-13.57%
Midland	-10.54%
Navarro	-18.87%
North Central	-13.73%
Northeast Texas	-11.33%
Odessa	-7.29%
Panola	-9.46%
Paris	-17.82%
Ranger	-0.55%
San Jacinto	-10.81%
South Plains	-7.84%
South Texas	-15.88%
Southwest Texas	-1.61%
Tarrant	-5.95%
Temple	-10.22%
Texarkana	-23.38%
Texas Southmost	23.45%
Trinity Valley	-24.04%
Tyler	-3.90%
Vernon	-11.10%
Victoria	-18.21%
Weatherford	-11.79%
Western Texas	-28.08%
Wharton	-13.99%

STATE**-9.54%**

The metrics used to determine Students Success Funding also saw significant revisions for the first time since the program was implemented for the 2014-15 biennium. Based on an intent rider included in the 2020-21 General Appropriations Act, Success Point Metrics were revised for the 2022-23 biennium. The new weights place greater emphasis on “critical field” completions and transfer to university.

METRIC

POINTS

Student successfully completes developmental education in mathematics	1.0
Student successfully completes developmental education in reading	0.5
Student successfully completes developmental education in writing	0.5
Student completes first college-level mathematics course with a grade of “C” or better	1.0
Student completes first college-level course designated as reading intensive with a grade of “C” or better	0.5
Student completes first college-level course designated as writing intensive with a grade of “C” or better	0.5
Student successfully completes first 15 semester credit hours at the institution	1.0
Student successfully completes first 30 semester credit hours at the institution	1.0
Student transfers to a General Academic Institution after successfully completing at least 15 semester credit hours at the community college, or a student in a structured co-enrollment program successfully completing at least 15 semester credit hours at the community college.	3.0
Student receives from the institution an associate’s degree, a Bachelor’s degree, or a certificate recognized for this purpose by the Coordinating Board in a field other than a critical field, such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), or Allied Health.	1.2
Student receives from the institution an associate’s degree, a Bachelor’s degree, or a certificate recognized for this purpose by the Coordinating Board in a critical field, including the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM), or Allied Health.	3.25

Appropriators adopted a rider advanced by TACC which will require the Community and Technical Colleges Formula Advisory Committee to institute a formal process to designate and remove critical fields for the purposes of Student Success Points in a transparent, predictable manner based on emerging data and trends. The rider requires the advisory committee to apply a formal methodology to the most recent, reasonably available, reliable data to approve two sets of fields for recommendation to the Higher Education Coordinating Board: one recommended for addition to the critical fields list, and one recommended for removal from the critical fields list.

As over half of all community college districts faced reduced appropriations resulting from enrollment declines, TACC advanced hold harmless funding to stave off cuts. While a full hold harmless was ultimately not adopted, SB 1 provides for a need-based supplement of \$1 million for eleven colleges identified by the Legislative Budget Board. Eligibility for this supplement was based on factors including six-year growth trends, the income profile of students, the population of the home municipality of the district, and a composite financial index as calculated by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.



POLICY PRIORITIES

BILL AUTHORS & CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Policy Priority	Bill Number	Senate Author	House Author
Formula Funding	SB 1	Conference Committee	
		Nelson (Chair)	Dr. Bonnen (Chair)
		Huffman	Capriglione
		Kolkhorst	Gonzalez
		Nichols	Walle
		Taylor	Wilson
TRUE Initiative	SB 1102 HB 3003	Creighton	Parker
CC Finance Commission	SB 1230 HB 3351	Taylor	Pacheco

TEXAS RESKILLING & UPSKILLING THROUGH EDUCATION

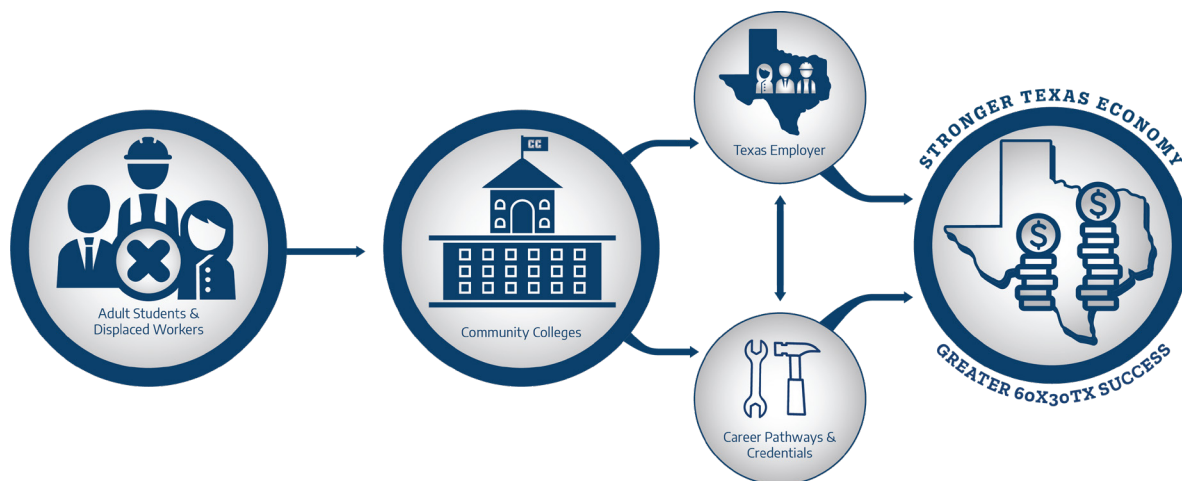
SB 1102

TACC advanced a major workforce initiative to address labor challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Texas Reskilling & Upskilling through Education (TRUE) initiative aims to prepare students for in-demand careers accelerating their transition to work while also building an enduring education infrastructure to support a thriving Texas economy throughout the diverse regions of the state. Through TRUE, the colleges will work with business partners and others in their communities to bolster this talent pipeline strategy.

The TRUE initiative became the TRUE Act, or SB 1102 by Senator Brandon Creighton and House sponsor Representative Tan Parker. The bill passed with overwhelming support in both chambers and was signed into law by Governor Abbott. Under TRUE, colleges will:

- Provide training in existing, new, or redesigned accelerated programs that teach high-demand skills and lead to postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce credentials valued in growing occupations.
- Develop new, or redesigning existing, industry-aligned, high-demand postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce credentials and certificate programs or other courses of instruction leading to those certifications or credentials that can be completed in six months or less.
- Build institutional capacity to provide high-demand credentials that are stackable in career pathways as identified by regional or statewide targeted occupations lists.

TRUE MODEL



COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE FINANCE

SB 1230

The funding formula for public community and junior colleges is no longer adequate for determining actual funding needs of the 50 community college districts, nor is it a sustainable allocation method for state appropriations. The formula is largely based on a contact hour formula established in 1973. While there have been some iterations, such as the inclusion of an outcomes-based model in 2013, the formula shows signs of fatigue and is in need of a more thorough review than a 140-day session would allow.

With this understanding, TACC advanced SB 1230 by Senator Larry Taylor and House sponsor Rep. Leo Pacheco which establishes the Commission on Community College Finance. This Commission will make recommendations for consideration by the 88th Texas Legislature to establish a state funding formula and funding levels sufficient for sustaining viable community college education and training offerings throughout the state. The bill calls for a commission of twelve members to be appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Texas Association of Community Colleges, and the Community College Association of Texas Trustees.

Members appointed will include community college administrators, business leaders, and other stakeholders knowledgeable in junior college mission, instructional programs, and finance. Once convened, this panel will exam trend and forecast data, gather stakeholder input, and make recommendations that account for equity in student outcomes, with a particular focus on students who are underrepresented in higher education, including from families in the bottom quintiles of the economic spectrum. Community college leaders and stakeholders will work parallel to the commission through a Steering Committee established by TACC to aid the commission in its work.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION

Several other pieces of legislation significant to community colleges were passed into law by the 87th Legislature. Below are notable highlights.

HB 3348 (Rep. Pacheco) - Relating to the number of baccalaureate degree programs certain public junior colleges may offer. This bill increases the allowable number of baccalaureate degree programs at eligible colleges from three to five programs.

SB 959 (Sen. Zaffirini) - Relating to student success-based funding recommendations for certain continuing workforce education courses offered by public junior colleges. This bill requires the Community and Technical Colleges Formula Advisory Committee to contemplate inclusion of non-credit, workforce continuing education in the Student Success Point formula.

SB 1277 (Sen. West) - Relating to an agreement between a school district and public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to high school students enrolled in the district. This bill requires any agreement between a public school district and public institution of higher education providing for a dual credit program to designate at least one employee of the district or institution as responsible for providing academic advising to a student who enrolls in a dual credit course under the program before the student begins the course.

SB 1531 (Sen. West) - Relating to formula funding for excess undergraduate credit hours at public institutions of higher education and to the tuition rate that may be charged for those credit hours. The bill lowers the threshold number of semester credit hours above which a public institution of higher education may charge a resident undergraduate student a higher rate of tuition for excessive semester credit hours from 30 hours to 15 hours for a student enrolled in an associate degree program. The lowered threshold will apply beginning with students enrolling for the first time in the fall of 2023.

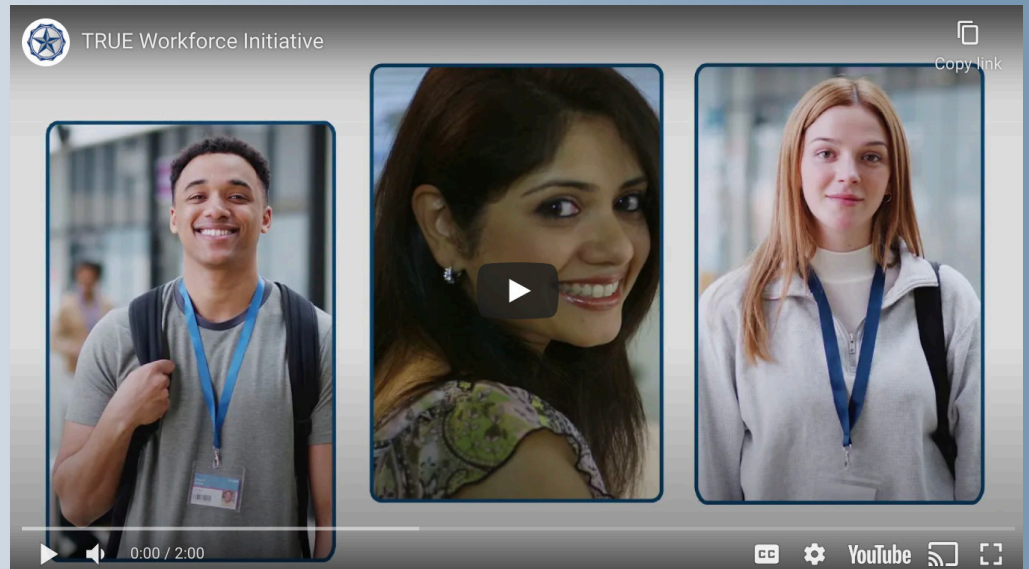
SB 1856 (Sen. Powell) - Relating to certain vocational nursing students providing essential services during a declared state of disaster. This bill establishes that services provided by a vocational nursing student in a licensed nursing facility and authorized by a contract or other arrangement with the facility are allowed at all times in Texas, including during a declared state of disaster.

SESSION VIDEOS



87TH LEGISLATURE
TACC POLICY
PRIORITIES

TRUE WORKFORCE
INITIATIVE



FINAL SBI RUNS BY COLLEGE

College	Core	Contact Hours	SSP	BAT	2022 -23 Instructional Total
Alamo	\$1,360,812	\$102,400,624	\$24,115,318		\$127,876,754
Alvin	\$1,360,812	\$11,059,295	\$2,755,136		\$15,175,243
Amarillo	\$1,360,812	\$21,459,878	\$4,744,640		\$27,565,330
Angelina	\$1,360,812	\$10,641,744	\$2,161,130		\$14,163,686
Austin	\$1,360,812	\$78,945,757	\$18,081,802		\$98,388,371
Blinn	\$1,360,812	\$38,450,849	\$10,896,273		\$50,707,934
Brazosport	\$1,360,812	\$6,848,991	\$1,793,455	\$466,708	\$10,469,966
Central Texas	\$1,360,812	\$22,665,623	\$5,025,412		\$29,051,847
Cisco	\$1,360,812	\$7,582,519	\$1,737,143		\$10,680,474
Clarendon	\$1,360,812	\$3,606,375	\$801,356		\$5,768,543
Coastal Bend	\$1,360,812	\$9,076,276	\$1,956,727		\$12,393,815
College of the Mainland	\$1,360,812	\$9,768,202	\$2,169,228		\$13,298,242
Collin	\$1,360,812	\$72,900,957	\$14,957,161		\$89,218,930
Dallas	\$1,360,812	\$150,500,584	\$30,527,962		\$182,389,358
Del Mar	\$1,360,812	\$28,774,305	\$4,583,096		\$34,718,213
El Paso	\$1,360,812	\$49,734,129	\$11,995,642		\$63,090,583
Frank Phillips	\$1,360,812	\$3,696,296	\$717,736		\$5,774,844
Galveston	\$1,360,812	\$7,054,600	\$1,182,860		\$9,598,272
Grayson	\$1,360,812	\$10,159,238	\$1,943,765		\$13,463,815
Hill	\$1,360,812	\$9,568,459	\$2,119,887		\$13,049,158
Houston	\$1,360,812	\$102,232,107	\$21,206,514		\$124,799,433
Howard	\$1,360,812	\$8,301,319	\$1,692,784		\$11,354,915
Kilgore	\$1,360,812	\$15,312,360	\$2,636,632		\$19,309,804
Laredo	\$1,360,812	\$16,757,908	\$4,379,072		\$22,497,792

College	Core	Contact Hours	SSP	BAT	2022 -23 Instructional Total
Lee	\$1,360,812	\$16,464,815	\$3,195,494		\$21,021,121
Lone Star	\$1,360,812	\$136,191,897	\$28,345,491		\$165,898,200
McLennan	\$1,360,812	\$18,544,663	\$3,921,163		\$23,826,638
Midland	\$1,360,812	\$10,553,978	\$2,113,396	\$150,760	\$14,178,946
Navarro	\$1,360,812	\$18,893,801	\$4,124,782		\$24,379,395
North Central TX	\$1,360,812	\$17,142,006	\$4,340,130		\$22,842,948
Northeast TX	\$1,360,812	\$6,888,243	\$1,538,441		\$9,787,496
Odessa	\$1,360,812	\$15,660,030	\$2,660,163		\$19,681,005
Panola	\$1,360,812	\$7,008,073	\$1,262,174		\$9,631,059
Paris	\$1,360,812	\$10,898,902	\$2,486,132		\$14,745,846
Ranger	\$1,360,812	\$5,895,297	\$1,198,941		\$8,455,050
San Jacinto	\$1,360,812	\$66,732,383	\$14,522,113		\$82,615,308
South Plains	\$1,360,812	\$21,537,715	\$4,191,068		\$27,089,595
South Texas	\$1,360,812	\$61,571,707	\$14,675,381	\$2,580,168	\$80,188,068
Southwest TX	\$1,360,812	\$13,956,946	\$3,079,498		\$18,397,256
Tarrant	\$1,360,812	\$94,751,844	\$21,774,032		\$117,886,688
Temple	\$1,360,812	\$10,289,016	\$2,404,546		\$14,054,374
Texarkana	\$1,360,812	\$9,526,529	\$2,089,787		\$12,977,128
Texas Southmost	\$1,360,812	\$14,378,206	\$2,930,989		\$18,670,007
Trinity Valley	\$1,360,812	\$15,575,289	\$3,603,169		\$20,539,270
Tyler	\$1,360,812	\$30,765,951	\$5,801,324	\$244,220	\$38,172,307
Vernon	\$1,360,812	\$7,634,238	\$1,489,810		\$10,484,860
Victoria	\$1,360,812	\$7,170,392	\$1,672,972		\$10,204,176
Weatherford	\$1,360,812	\$13,689,037	\$2,800,817		\$17,850,666
Western TX	\$1,360,812	\$4,282,994	\$882,351		\$6,526,157
Wharton	\$1,360,812	\$13,738,458	\$3,511,240		\$18,610,510

GRAND TOTAL \$68,040,600 \$1,447,240,805 \$314,796,135 \$3,441,856 \$1,833,519,396



**Texas Association of
Community Colleges**

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