



Texas Commission on Community College Finance

Final Recommendations

The Texas Commission on Community College Finance was established during the 87th Legislature by SB 1230 to **re-evaluate how Texas community colleges are funded via state appropriations**. The 12 appointed commissioners held seven public hearings, with the final hearing on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, where they unanimously approved a set of final recommendations which were sent to State Leadership in early November and made public on November 17, 2022.

The final recommendations are centered around **three key areas**:



State Funding for Outcomes



Affordability for Students



Investments in College Capacity

This one-pager provides a high-level overview of the **transformative changes** proposed by the Commission.



Recommendation 1.1: Develop a modern community college finance model that distributes the majority of state funding based on measurable outcomes aligned with regional and state workforce needs and state goals for Building a Talent Strong Texas.

Measurable outcomes include:

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Credentials of value,
including degrees,
certificates, and other
credentials from credit and
non-credit programs.

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**Credentials of
value awarded in
high-demand
fields.**

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**Students who
transfer to
four-year
universities.**

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**Students who complete
a sequence of dual
credit courses that
apply towards academic
and workforce program
requirements.**

The outcomes-based formula include **robust incentives for completions and transfers of students who are economically or educationally disadvantaged and adult learners** to promote improved outcomes for populations that historically have completed postsecondary credentials at significantly lower rates.

Recommendation 1.2: Ensure community colleges across Texas can access foundational levels of funding for **instruction and operations** through a state-funded guaranteed yield for colleges with low taxable valuations.

Recommendation 1.3: Facilitate initial implementation of the new model through **hold harmless funding**, and authorize the Texas Commissioner of Higher Education to create a process to address **unintended negative consequences**.

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Recommendation 2.1: Increase funding for **Texas Educational Opportunity Grants (TEOG)** and link state performance measures for eligible students served through TEOG at two-year institutions and TEXAS Grants at universities to establish a state goal of supporting at least 70 percent of qualified low-income college students in pursuing postsecondary credentials of value at public two- and four-year institutions.

Recommendation 2.2: Provide financial aid through colleges to cover tuition and required fees in dual credit courses for economically disadvantaged students. This new targeted **financial aid for dual credit** should also incorporate a maximum tuition rate for dual credit courses set annually by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to help ensure equitable access for high school students across the state to dual credit courses.

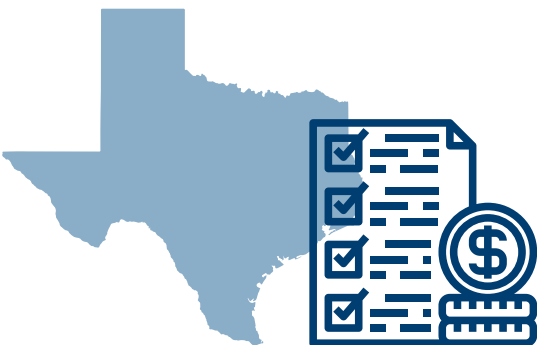
Recommendation 2.3: Expand partnerships among colleges and private employers for **paid work-based learning opportunities**, including work-study, apprenticeships, and internships related to students' programs of study, utilizing the work-based learning strategic framework developed by the Governor's Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative.



Recommendation 3.1: Provide one-time **seed grants for programs in high-demand fields** to support community colleges in rapidly standing up or expanding programs to meet regional and state workforce needs.

Recommendation 3.2: Support and facilitate **shared services** and stronger inter-institutional partnerships. THECB should facilitate shared services to enable individual colleges to improve operational efficiency and expand the range of academic and workforce programs they offer. These shared services might include support for inter-institutional partnerships, master service agreements, and state technology infrastructure, along with related feasibility studies.

Recommendation 3.3: Update state policies, and build upon the recent work by individual colleges, to help community colleges across the state provide **high-quality non-credit credential programs that are convertible and stackable** with credit-bearing programs. A state crosswalk of non-credit to credit courses and programs will improve transferability of workforce education courses across institutions and throughout students' pathways, from high school dual credit programs through pathways for adult learners to support ongoing reskilling, upskilling, and career advancement.



What's next?

This transformational change is not achievable without commitment and critical investments from State Leadership and the Texas Legislature this upcoming session. Commissioner Harrison Keller has publicly stated these recommended changes would require an investment of roughly **\$600 to \$650 million** in additional funding for community colleges in the next biennium.