



QUICK FACTS

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2015 SESSION

A Better Texas Begins With Community Colleges

The success of our students drives colleges, their faculty, and staff around the state to make a difference in the lives of Texans. TACC recognizes that colleges must partner with the State of Texas to ensure that the success of our students remains the priority. To accomplish this, TACC proposes a 5-Point Campaign that asks state leaders to join us in this critical effort.

College Readiness

Early college experiences are increasingly critical and valuable for students and for the state. Community colleges are committed to ongoing collaboration with public school districts to prepare students who are not college-ready.

- *Continue state funding for the New Mathways Project at the University of Texas at Austin Dana Center.*
- *The state should fund both community colleges and school districts to support the collaboration called for in HB5.*

Workforce and Skills Alignment

Community colleges are educating students and building their skills in the industries critical to our state's prosperity. Texas' success depends on an educated workforce able to compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

- *Continue and enhance funding for the Skills Development Fund to expand the ability of community colleges to work with multiple employers.*
- *Continue and enhance funding for the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program.*
- *Develop a process for community colleges in regions with demonstrated needs to offer bachelor's degrees to students.*

Texans in Community Colleges

Community colleges offer an array of educational opportunities for adults at all skill levels and from every corner of Texas.

- *Provide sufficient funding for Adult Basic Education.*
 - *Any increase in Texas Grants funding should also include a corresponding increase in funding for the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) program.*
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Measuring and Funding Success

Community colleges support student success in Texas no matter where students are starting from or where their educational paths take them. To ensure the effectiveness of this effort, the state of Texas must continue to be a partner with its local community colleges. Policy recommendations:

1. *Provide \$2.011 billion for community and technical college instructional funding as recommended by THECB.*

2. *Continue with the new funding strategy implemented during the 83rd legislative session:*

- *Core college operations: \$50 million for the 2016-2017 biennium; \$1 million per college district*
- *Student Success Points: 10% of remainder*
- *Contact Hours: 90% of the remainder*

3. *For the 2016-2017 biennium, student success points should be funded at a rate that is no less than the rate student success points were funded for the 2014-2015 biennium (\$185 per student success point).*

“The allocation system shall be developed in a manner that compares the performance of the college district to itself using the allocation for student success points in the 2014-2015 biennium as the baseline for comparison.”

General Appropriations Act, 83rd Session

Transfer and Articulation

Community college students have the opportunity to develop skills and define individual success. It is imperative to the success of community college students to create an easy pathway to achieving goals. A complex system that differs across the higher-education system can negatively impact student transfer.

- *Require the use of the common course numbering system at all public institutions of higher education. This change will enhance the ability of students and college advisors to have a clear understanding of course transfer. Currently, all community colleges in Texas utilize the common course numbering system, but not all public universities do the same.*

SWCID Exceptional Items

Howard College has requested two exceptional items in the 2016/2017 Legislative Appropriation Request for SWCID.

- *Restore base appropriation funding to 2009 Levels - \$449,634 each year of the biennium.*
 - *Provide funds for an upgrade to the HVAC systems in the main building and the residential complex - \$1,992,158 in the first year of the biennium.*
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