



2019

LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES

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State Appropriations 2020-2021 Biennium

Issue

Sufficient state appropriations for community colleges is critical to improve student success and program completion. Key to our success are the following:

- ▶ Continuation of the 2014-15 biennium instituted funding methodology that incorporated (1) Core Operations, (2) Student Success, and (3) Contact Hours funding for each community college
- ▶ An increase in the biennial rate for Student Success Points from \$173 to \$215, per point
- ▶ Funding request level factors projected growth in contact hours, student success points, and inflationary increases
- ▶ The overall funding request is \$1.912.2 billion for the 2020-21 biennium

HCC Legislative Recommendation

Increase state formula funding by 8.2% (\$144.8M) over the 2018-19 biennium for community colleges.

Objective

To promote student success and program completion in alignment with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30TX Plan (i.e., by 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree).





Dual Credit



Issue

The incorporation of a structured state-wide dual credit model that includes appropriate assessment and accountability is fundamental to the effective expansion and success of dual credit programs across the state. Accessibility, adequate rigor, diversity, efficiency, consistency and quality are necessary to improve completion rates, particularly for economically disadvantaged students deemed less likely to succeed in higher education, as compared to their non-economically disadvantaged peers. Also, key to our success are the following:

- ▶ Acknowledgment that Texas has witnessed exponential growth (650 percent) in the number of high school students enrolling in dual credit since 2000,* suggesting the need to
- ▶ Establish a state-wide dual credit model aligned with the 60x30TX Plan**
- ▶ Ensure that no less than 30% of high school graduates earn 12 semester credit hours (SCH) in dual credit
- ▶ Establish a task force – Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Education Agency, Texas Workforce Commission, K-12 and Higher Education – to study equitable access matters
- ▶ Utilize the existing Texas Education Opportunity Grant (TEOG) to support more dual credit opportunities
- ▶ Require students to declare a meta-major/ field of study upon completion of 12 SCH in core academic subjects or declare career paths in Career and Technical Education subjects

HCC Legislative Recommendation

Through a structured state-wide dual credit model, expand opportunities for students to earn associates degrees through dual credit programs, while factoring adequate assessment and accountability measures.

Objective

To increase the completion pipeline and positively contribute to the Texas workforce.

*Dual Credit Education in Texas, Interim Report, RAND Corporation at pg. iii.

**By 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.



Workforce Education

Issue

Texas community colleges are the leader in workforce education, awarding 93% (or 54,630) of all technical certificates and associate degrees in Texas in fiscal year 2017.* Notwithstanding this observation 46% of employers, due to a skills gap, are having difficulty filling jobs in skills trades that include: drivers, sales representatives, teachers, restaurant and hotel staff, accounting and finance staff, nurses, laborers, engineers and technicians.** Key to overcoming the skills gap and ensuring our success are the following:

- ▶ Expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) dual credit offerings and workforce continuing education to allow a student to graduate high school with a workforce credential
- ▶ Increase funding for the Skills Development Fund (SDF) that offers local customized training opportunities for Texas businesses and workers to increase skill levels and wages
- ▶ Increase funding for Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant to help defray start-up costs associated with the development of career and technical education programs – supports new and emerging industries or high demand occupations, or expands dual credit career and technical education opportunities in public high schools
- ▶ Increase funding for Small Business Development Centers through the Texas Workforce Commission – helps new entrepreneurs build and strengthen existing businesses

HCC Legislative Recommendation

Increase funding to overcome the skills gap concern and ensure student access that leads to program completion and workforce certification.

Objective

To make higher education more affordable, accessible, and help meet existing and future workforce demands.

*Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**Texas Association of Community Colleges quoting Manpower Group.





We are Houston's Community College



#1

Ranked nationally among associate's institutions hosting international students.

#1

in awarding Associate Degrees to **all minorities.**

#2

in awarding Associate Degrees in **all disciplines.**

#2

in awarding Associate Degrees to **African-American students.**

#3

in awarding Associate Degrees to **Hispanic students.**

#4

in awarding Associate Degrees to **Asian-American students.**

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