Welcome! Please share in the chat:

1. Name and community college (service area or affiliation)
2. Answer the poll question: Which best describes you?
Thank you

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Today’s Roadmap

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Recap Draft Commission Recs

3. Special Guest: Brendan Batchelder, Student Advisory Council

4. Next Steps & Resources
Agenda for September 12 Meeting

All meeting materials, including agendas, presentation slides, and archived videos, are posted here:

https://www.highered.texas.gov/legislative-media-resources/texas-commission-on-community-college-finance/
“Truly game-changing opportunity for the future of Texas community colleges”

“A win-win opportunity for the state”

“Transformational is the word of the day”

“This is groundbreaking – a real moonshot to prosperity”

“This is something that has to be done and now is the time to make this kind of investment”
Category #1: State Funding for Outcomes

1. State Funding for Outcomes

1.1 Develop modern finance model that distributes state funding based on measurable outcomes

1.2 Ensure community colleges can access foundational levels of funding through state-funded guaranteed yield

Funding levels should be based on individual colleges’ current outcomes and specified fixed dollar amounts for:

1. Credentials of value: degrees, certificates, and other credentials from credit and non-credit programs that equip students for continued learning and greater earnings

2. High-demand fields: credentials of value awarded in fields and sectors that are critical to the Texas economy

3. Transfer success: students who transfer to 4-year universities

Calculation should include adjustments for:

1. Higher costs of educating students who need additional support services (low-income, academically underprepared, adults who want to reskill/upskill)

2. Higher operating costs for smaller colleges
   - Colleges receiving additional state funds would participate in shared services or inter-institutional partnerships
## Category #1: State Funding for Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Questions / Clarifications</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.1 Outcomes Funding</td>
<td>How will dual credit progression and transfer be defined and weighted?</td>
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<td>What will qualify a student as economically disadvantaged (Pell, TEOG, both)?</td>
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<td>What will be the weights for economically and academically disadvantaged students?</td>
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<td>As data systems improve, what additional long-term outcomes should be included?</td>
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<td>1.2 Guaranteed Yield</td>
<td>How will thresholds for “low taxable property values” and/or “effort” be calculated and set?</td>
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<td>Should colleges receiving guaranteed yield “be expected” to participate in shared services?</td>
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Poll Question: According to the same poll, what percentage of Texans would support basing community college funding more on student outcomes than traditional input measures like enrollment?

A. 22%

B. 44%

C. 65%

D. 83%
Category #2: Affordability for Students

**AFFORDABILITY FOR STUDENTS**

2.1 Increase funding for **Texas Educational Opportunity Grants** and link state performance measures between TEOG and TEXAS Grants

2.2 Provide **financial aid for dual credit** for economically disadvantaged students

2.3 Expand partnerships among colleges and private employers for **paid work-based learning** opportunities

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Establish state goal of supporting at least 70% of **qualified low-income college students** in pursuing credentials of value at public institutions of higher education

Provide colleges greater flexibility to meet needs of **non-traditional students** pursuing credentials of value, including non-credit and short-term programs

Considerations for targeted financial aid for dual credit:

1. **Administration by THECB**, with support from TEA, for dual credit courses that apply towards academic or workforce program requirements

2. Incorporation of a **uniform tuition rate** for dual credit courses set annually by THECB to ensure equitable access for high school students across the state

Work-based learning is a proven strategy to provide financial support while giving students opportunities to develop skills through real work experiences

State should leverage existing federal funding and provide targeted state support for programs through colleges developed in partnership with employers

## Category #2: Affordability for Students

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Financial Aid</td>
<td>Is the goal to support “at least 70% of qualified low-income students” time-bound?</td>
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<td>What additional flexibilities are needed to expand aid to those not currently served by TEOG?</td>
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<td>2.2 Dual Credit</td>
<td>Instead of “financial aid,” should this instead be called a “reimbursement” since funding is not expected to require a student application and will flow to the college based on qualified FRL status?</td>
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<td>How will a “fixed rate” for tuition and fees be set? Would it need to vary based on type of course (e.g., CTE vs. academic)?</td>
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<td>2.3 Paid work-based learning</td>
<td>Does this include any additional or targeted state investment (e.g., Texas College Work-Study program already requires a 50/50 split with private employers)?</td>
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Poll Question: According to the same statewide poll, what do Texans value most about community colleges?

A. Award “very valuable” credentials (48% + 37% “somewhat valuable”)

B. Save students money compared to 4-year institutions (69%)

C. Award credits that can be transferred to a 4-year institution (68%)

D. Provide educational opportunities for people who live in the community (65%)
Category #3: Investments in College Capacity

3.1 Provide one-time seed grants for programs in high-demand fields that meet regional and state workforce needs.

3.2 Support and facilitate shared services and stronger inter-institutional partnerships.

3.3 Update state policies to help colleges provide high-quality non-credit credential programs that are convertible and stackable with credit-bearing programs.

Grants would be administered through THECB, in consultation with TWC.

Priority should be given to short-term workforce programs developed in partnership with employers.

Insights from the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) program can inform how seed grants are designed and distributed.

Shared services might include:
- Support for inter-institutional partnerships
- Master service agreements
- State technology infrastructure

Conducting a state crosswalk of non-credit to credit courses and programs will:
1. Improve transferability of workforce education courses across institutions and throughout students’ pathways
2. Facilitate and improve the mobility of credit awarded for students’ prior work experience
3. Advance Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative efforts to clarify and streamline educational and career pathways
### Category #3: Investments in College Capacity

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</table>
| 3.1 Seed grants | What methodology will be used for “high-demand fields”?  
|                 | Should this funding be more consistent than a one-time competitive grant? Or will growing outcome-based funding help sustain? |
Poll Question: According to the same poll, what percentage of Texans believe it is important for community college credentials to align with skills needed by employers?

A. 32%

B. 48%

C. 73%

D. 91% (67% said “very important”, 24% “somewhat important”)
Discussion Question: What are your reactions to these recommendations? Any that you are enthusiastic to see included? Any key details you are especially eager to see?
Special Guest: Brendan Batchelder
Fact Sheets by the Student Advisory Council

MAKING COMMUNITY COLLEGE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL TEXAS STUDENTS

Texas community college students are struggling financially. The cost of higher education is increasing, and state financial aid is not keeping pace. Community colleges can be a smarter, more affordable option than high school and university, but not everyone has equal access. Only about 5% of first-year community college students from households with $40,000 or less can afford to pay full tuition at a community college, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Improvements in the cost of attending community college often means more than just lowering tuition. The Student Advisory Council (SAC) has identified three policy recommendations to address the affordability gap for Texas community college students:

1. Implement need-based financial aid support for qualified low-income students at two-year and four-year colleges to increase their investment in Texas Education Opportunity Grants (TEOGs).
2. Reduce the proportion of students who must work while attending college.
3. Increase the availability of financial aid for students with disabilities.

MAKING DUAL CREDIT ACCESSIBLE TO ALL TEXAS STUDENTS

Dual credit participation has shown to improve postsecondary retention, success and completion[1] and now represents roughly 25% of total community college enrollments across Texas. Yet cost and access to course offerings vary widely for high school students based on their zip code.

Due to current funding constraints, some Texas community colleges cannot afford to expand access through tuition waivers, with student costs ranging as high as $14,000[2] to cover other community college expenses. Inexpensive access, especially for students from low-income backgrounds, may struggle to sustain their efforts long-term without additional state funding.

Community college districts in Dallas, El Paso, South Texas, and Austin offer significant discounts to dual credit students, while others offer no discount or, in some cases, charge more than regular tuition.

VALUING TRANSFER SUCCESS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

About 31% of Texas community college students transfer to four-year institutions within six years. This represents over 80,000 students, yet only 42% of these students earn a bachelor’s degree compared to 46% nationally[3]. Credit transfer challenges are an important contributing factor; roughly 7,000 students failed to transfer a combined 52,000 credits to Texas public universities, and 4,400 of these students failed to transfer 5 or more courses, a full semester’s worth of coursework[2]. This comes at an enormous cost to students and the state, which repays most loans made to adult ages of 25 and over with a bachelor’s degree or higher[4]. Ensuring transfer efficiency and success will save Texas students and taxpayers valuable time and money while building a Talent Starriy Texas.

Community colleges play an essential role in supporting students to attain bachelor’s degrees that fuel the state’s economic growth and lead to higher wages for Texans.

70% of all Texas who complete a bachelor’s earn a community college degree[5].

Transfer costs cost Texas an estimated $160 million every year, $277 million to students and $223 to the state[6].

This fact sheet was created by Daya Daniels, Walter Anderson, Mollie Flett, and Victoria Hower. They are members of the Student Advisory Council’s program designed and supported by Young Involved, The Education Trust of Texas, Every Texan, and Breakthrough Central Texas as a joint initiative of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for Equity (THECB) Learn more at [THECB website].
TXCCCF Next Steps

• **October 18:** The Commission will reconvene one final time to approve the final draft of their report. This will likely be a public meeting held virtually.

• **November 1:** The final approved report will be delivered to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Legislature.

• **January 10:** The first day of the 88th Legislative session.
Events & Resources

• Want to ensure community college finance reform is informed by the lived experiences of students? Follow the work of the **Student Advisory Council** or contact jfeinstein@edtrust.org.

• Texas Postsecondary Advocates Coalition for Equity (PACE) meets monthly! Email aurora.harris@younginvincibles.org for meeting and membership inquiries.

• Want to stay up-to-date on the progress of community college finance reform in the 88th Texas Legislature? Sign up for action alerts from the **Aim Hire Texas Policy Coalition**, a non-partisan statewide partnership of business and education organizations advocating for strategic and data-driven community college finance reform in the upcoming legislative session. Visit AimHireTexas.org/Policy or text AIM to 50457.
Aim Hire Texas-Policy Coalition (AHT-PC) Purpose

Coalition organizers will…

- **INFORM** members and organizations about issues related to community colleges and workforce development before, during and after session through email updates, opinion editorials, social media, etc.
- **EQUIP** organizations with digital assets to customize for their use in grassroots efforts, and provide tools for individuals and organizations to connect with their elected officials.

So coalition members can…

- **ADVOCATE** based on your own interest with the support of Aim Hire Policy Coalition which will share information and its position on legislation with partner organizations.

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**Sign up for email updates/ action alerts:**
Text AIM to 50457

**If your organization wants to join:**
Email lilac.ding@commitpartnership.org

Visit our website at: [AimHireTexas.org/Policy](http://AimHireTexas.org/Policy) or scan the QR code below