



POLICY PRIORITIES

FOR THE 88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Community College Finance Reform

- The Texas Commission on Community College Finance (the “Commission”) was created by Senate Bill 1230 in the 87th Legislative Session.
- Per SB 1230, the Commission was created to make recommendations regarding the state funding formula and funding levels for community colleges in Texas.
- The final recommendations from the Commission are centered around three areas: state funding for outcomes, affordability for students, and investments in college capacity.
- Regarding state funding for outcomes, the Commission recommends the development of 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.
- The Commission also recommends an increase in funding for Texas Educational Opportunity Grants and other financial aid for students.
- Additionally, the Commission recommends an increase in funding to allow colleges to expand their capacity in high-demand fields to meet regional and state workforce needs.

RECOMMENDATION

The Blinn College District supports legislation developed from the final recommendations of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance.



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Texas Association of Community Colleges

The Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) has developed a list of policy priorities for community colleges in Texas. Those items include:

- **Texas Education Opportunity Grants.** Texas Education Opportunity Grants (TEOG) are the state's primary method for providing financial aid to community college students. However, colleges currently are required to provide matching funds to draw down this aid. TACC seeks to provide greater flexibility by allowing community colleges to use Pell Grant funding as the match for TEOG in a similar fashion used by four-year universities with TEXAS Grants.
- **Cybersecurity and IT Modernization.** During the 87th Texas Legislature, House Bill 4018 was passed establishing a Joint Operations Committee (JOC) of the legislature to oversee state funding for information technology (IT) modernization projects across state agencies and institutions of higher education. TACC will advocate to utilize one-time funding to the extent it is made available to meet the IT modernization needs for community colleges should funding be provided to other state agencies or institutions of higher education.
- **Clinical Nursing Site.** There is statewide demand for growing our nursing workforce. The Board of Nursing has noted the lack of clinical nursing hours as a key constraint on the state's nursing pipeline. TACC will seek to address the nursing shortage and ensure that availability for clinical nursing sites

is prioritized for students from Texas community colleges through statutory authority via the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

- **Texas Transfer Framework.** Over the past three years, the THECB has developed and implemented the new Texas Transfer Framework to improve transferability and portability of credit hours between two-year and four-year institutions. Another goal of the Texas Transfer Framework is to revise the current Fields of Study curricula. However, the THECB lacks statutory authority to enforce articulated Fields of Study disciplines. TACC will advocate for additional statutory authority for the THECB to better implement the Texas Transfer Framework.

RECOMMENDATION

The Blinn College District supports the policy priorities adopted by the Texas Association of Community Colleges and the Community College Association of Texas Trustees.

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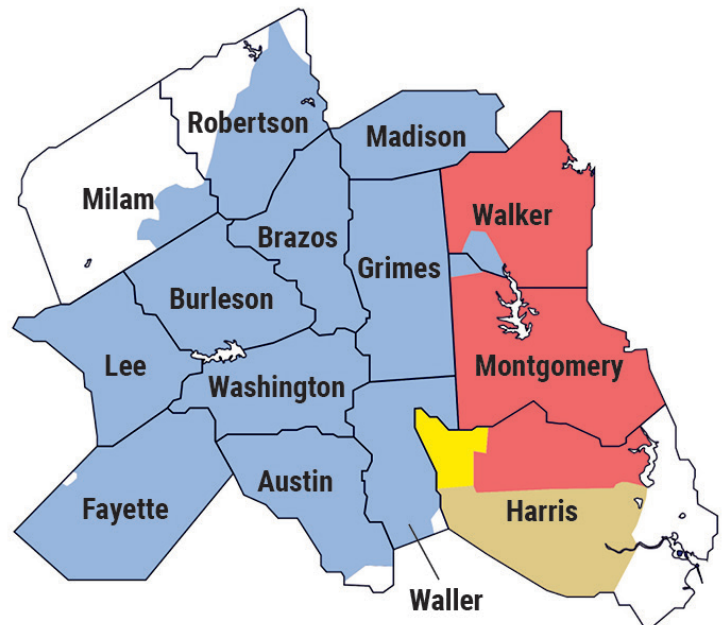
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Blinn College District Service Area Expansion

- Community colleges in Texas are assigned a geographical service area by the Texas Legislature. Each community college is tasked with providing higher education services to that specific area. A college may request that the Texas Legislature amend its assigned service area.
- Across the state, there are numerous regions that have never been assigned to the service area of a community college. Blinn College has such an area adjacent to its service area.
- Currently, Blinn College's service area covers all or part of 13 counties. The eastern edge of the College's service area includes most of Waller County. However, Waller ISD is located partially in Waller County and partially in Harris County, which is not in Blinn's service area.
- Blinn College currently offers dual credit classes to several school districts in Waller County. However, Blinn is embarking on an expansion of operations in the greater Waller area to provide comprehensive educational services beyond dual credit classes to the community in general.
- To provide streamlined services, Blinn College desires to add the portion of Waller ISD that is located in Harris County to Blinn's service area. This will allow Blinn College to offer both academic and workforce courses to the entire geographical area that make up the Waller ISD boundaries.

RECOMMENDATION

The Blinn College District requests that the Texas Legislature amend its service area to include the portion of Waller ISD that is located in Harris County, Texas.



- Blinn College District service area
- Proposed expansion area
- Lone Star College service area
- Houston Community College service area