



Texas Community Colleges Funding Request for 2018-19 Biennium

Impact

State: Texas Community Colleges are vital to the [economic well-being](#) of the State of Texas. Individually and in aggregate, Texas Community Colleges will play a central role in advancing the key strategies of the new Texas Strategic Plan for Higher Education, [60X30TX](#).

Regional and Local: Each of the [50 Community College Districts](#) serves as a central partner with school districts, universities, business, and industry to build successful pathways from public schools to postsecondary education to workforce for their respective communities.

Funding

In order for the State of Texas to meet its higher education goals as put forth by the 60X30TX plan, community colleges will be asked to do much of the heavy lifting. Community colleges are the starting point for the overwhelming majority of Texans entering higher education or enhancing their workforce readiness. Because of this vital role, increasing the state’s investment in community colleges is essential in the upcoming Legislative Session. With this in mind, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Formula Advisory Committee recommended \$1.94 billion in General Revenue for community colleges over the next biennium. However, given slowdowns in some sectors of the Texas economy, difficult decisions will have to be made to balance the state’s budget and maintain the fiscal responsibility that has kept our state strong. Accordingly, Texas Community Colleges respectfully request \$1.83 billion in General Revenue to fund Core Operations, Student Success, and Instruction across the 50 districts in the following funding amounts:

<p>Core Operations: \$75,000,000 (\$25 million increase from 2016-17)</p> <p>All 50 college districts have basic operating costs. The \$500,000 per district per year level of funding was established by the 83rd Legislature. Increasing the core by \$250,000 per district per year will help support all institutions, especially small and rural institutions.</p>
<p>Student Success: \$186,881,648 (\$18 million increase from 2016-17)</p> <p>Texas Community Colleges continue to advance programs and strategies that improve student success on multiple metrics. In order for the Student Success Points system to effectively reward institutions for improvements in student success, the points need to be funded at a minimum of \$185 per point.</p>
<p>Instruction: \$1,566,866,566 (\$44 million increase from 2016-17)</p> <p>The largest portion of state revenue provides community colleges with funds for instruction. The ability of community colleges to meet workforce skills demands, increase dual credit courses, and expand educational opportunities for all students is directly tied to instructional funding appropriated by the Legislature.</p>

Summary of Request for 2018-19 Biennium

TOTAL Core, Student Success, & Instruction, 2018-19	\$1,828,768,214
TOTAL Core, Student Success, & Instruction, 2016-17	\$1,741,684,013
Additional General Revenue Request of Texas Community Colleges	\$87,084,201

Texas Community Colleges Support Enhanced Programs and Associated Funding to Strengthen the Workforce Development Services throughout Texas.

- The **Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant** program allocates \$10 million each biennium to defray start-up costs associated with the development of career and technical education programs to public community and technical colleges and independent school districts. The 84th Texas Legislature transferred oversight of the state-funded program to the Texas Workforce Commission.
- JET grants provide potential economic returns by supporting new, emerging industries or high-demand occupations and offering new or expanded dual credit career and technical education opportunities in public high schools.
- JET grants benefit career training programs in fields such as registered nurse, electrician, welding, emergency medical technician, industrial maintenance mechanic, industrial engineering technician, diesel engine specialist, electronic engineering technician, and geology and petroleum technicians.
- The **Skills Development Fund** provides local customized training opportunities for Texas businesses and workers to increase skill levels and wages of the Texas workforce. The Skills Development Fund was appropriated \$48.6 million for the current biennium. Training providers can use grant funds for curriculum development, training materials, instructor certifications, and training equipment additions or upgrades.
- The Texas Workforce Commission administers funding for the Skills Development Fund program, which involves collaboration among businesses, public community and technical colleges who serve as grantee training providers, the Workforce Development Boards, and local economic development partners.
- Recent JET grants have been awarded to Alvin Community College, Angelina College, College of the Mainland, Laredo Community College, North Central Texas College, Odessa College, South Texas College, Texarkana College, and Wharton County Junior College.
- Throughout the 20-year history of the Skills Development Fund, most community college have received a grant. Recent recipients include Austin Community College, Del Mar College, El Centro College of the Dallas CCCD, and Kilgore College.

Recommendation

*Texas Community Colleges support enhanced policies, programs, and associated funding to strengthen the workforce development services and initiatives throughout the State of Texas. This includes continued growth of the **JET Grant** program and the **Skills Development Fund** program, both of which are administered by the TWC, and the inclusion of community colleges in new workforce development policies advanced through the Legislature.*