



OVERVIEW

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Purpose

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) was created by the Texas Legislature in 1965 to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system to achieve excellence for the college education of Texas students. Most of the statutes that are applicable to THECB are found in the Texas Education Code, Title 3, Section 61.

The THECB's overall responsibilities include assessment of the state of higher education in Texas; development of recommendations to the governor, Legislature, and institutions for its enhancement; establishment of policies for the efficient and effective use of the state's higher education resources; and the appointment of a Commissioner of Higher Education (Commissioner) to perform all duties delegated by the Board.

To meet these broad obligations to the people of Texas, the THECB reviews and recommends changes in formulas for allocation of state funds to public institutions. In addition, it helps eliminate costly duplication in academic programs and unnecessary construction projects. Working with higher education institutions, the governor, and the Legislature, the THECB also ensures that all Texans have access to high quality programs at different instructional levels and administers the state's student financial aid programs.

Board Membership

The Board is made up of 10 members appointed from across the state by the governor for staggered six-year terms. The governor also appoints the chairman and vice chairman. No Board member may be employed in education or serve on a community college board of trustees.

In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed legislation to add a non-voting student representative to the Board, also appointed by the governor, for an initial term of expiring May 31, 2009. Subsequent appointments will serve one-year terms.

The chairman appoints Board members to serve on committees. Standing committees include *Closing the Gaps*, Strategic Planning and Policy, and Agency Operations. Various advisory committees are appointed as necessary to provide guidance to the Board. Four of the advisory committees include at least one student representative as required by statute.

The Board is required to meet quarterly in Austin. Meetings are usually broadcast via the Internet live. Regular meetings are held in January, April, July, and October. Additional meetings may be called by the chairman.

Organization

Most Coordinating Board functions and staff fall under the direction of two deputy commissioners who report to the Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy/Chief Academic Officer oversees divisions for Academic Affairs and Research, Planning and Accountability, and P-16 Initiatives. Divisions under

the Deputy Commissioner for Business and Finance/Chief Operating Officer include Business and Support Services (which includes student grant and loan functions), Information Technology Services, and Human Resources. Also reporting directly to the Commissioner is a small group of directors and staff for legal, legislative, public information, policy research, and other advisory functions.

Higher Education Institutions

Texas has a total of 145 public and independent institutions of higher education.

Public institutions: The state has 101 total public higher education institutions: 35 public four-year universities and associated academic centers; three public state colleges; 50 public community college districts with multiple campuses; four public technical colleges; and nine public health-related institutions.

Independent institutions: The state has 44 independent institutions: 39 independent universities; two junior colleges; one health-related institution; and two chiropractic institutions.

Responsibilities

Among other responsibilities the Coordinating Board:

- Provides leadership to the state in reaching to goals of the state's higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*.
- Reviews and recommend changes in formulas for allocating legislative appropriations to higher education institutions, and advise the governor and Legislature on higher education funding needs.
- Approves institutions' requests for new academic programs and off-campus and out-of-district course offerings to meet academic needs and eliminate unnecessary duplication.
- Initiates, consolidate, or eliminate academic programs to meet educational needs and eliminate unnecessary duplication and other inefficient uses of legislative appropriations.
- Provide the people of Texas with information about preparing academically and financially for higher education.
- Develops a recommended common core curricula to promote free transfer of course credit among Texas public higher education institutions.
- Conducts studies and make recommendations on achieving excellence in or improving higher education. Provide reports to the Legislature on policy issues.
- Approves new construction, renovations, and property acquisitions funded with state money at public institutions of higher education.
- Prescribes changes in the roles and missions of public higher education institutions.
- Administers the state's student financial aid programs, including the Toward EXcellence, Access, & Success (TEXAS) Grant Program, the Texas B-On-Time Student Loan Program, and the Hinson-Hazlewood College Student Loan Program.
- Administers the Texas Success Initiative to help ensure that new college students have the reading, writing, and math skills they need to do college-level work.
- Administers the state's Advanced Research Program, which awards competitive grants to researchers at Texas higher education institutions.
- Approves and monitor postsecondary technical/vocational educational programs and adult vocational education offerings.
- Approves degree programs at career colleges and regulate unaccredited private postsecondary institutions.
- Collects and report data on higher education.
- Authorizes the creation of public community college districts and adopt standards for operating public community and technical colleges.

A list of most of the Coordinating Board's statutory authority is in Subchapter C, Section 61.051 of the Texas Education Code.

Coordinating Board

A.W. "Whit" Riter, III, Chairman (*Tyler*)
Fred W. Heldenfels, IV, Vice Chairman (*Austin*)
Elaine Mendoza, Secretary of the Board (*San Antonio*)
Durga D. Agrawal (*Houston*)
Dennis D. Golden (*Carthage*)
Wallace L. Hall, Jr. (*Dallas*)
Joe B. Hinton (*Crawford*)
Lyn Bracewell Phillips (*Bastrop*)
Brenda Pejovich (*Dallas*)
Heather A. Morris, Student Representative (*Lubbock*)

Executives Officers

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Commissioner of Higher Education

Linda Battles 427-6205
Associate Commissioner

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David Gardner 427-6146
Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy/Chief Academic Officer

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MacGregor Stephenson 427-6520
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