



**Report on the Recruitment of
Persons with
Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities at Public Institutions of
Higher Education in Texas**

October 2019

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



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Agency Mission

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to provide leadership and coordination for Texas higher education and to promote access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency through *60x30TX*, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that positions Texas as an international leader.

Agency Vision

The THECB will be recognized as an international leader in developing and implementing innovative higher education policy to accomplish our mission.

Agency Philosophy

The THECB will promote access to and success in quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access and success without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access and success is unacceptable.

The THECB's core values are:

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible for our actions and welcome every opportunity to educate stakeholders about our policies, decisions, and aspirations.

Efficiency: We accomplish our work using resources in the most effective manner.

Collaboration: We develop partnerships that result in student success and a highly qualified, globally competent workforce.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Please cite this report as follows: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (2019). **Report on the Recruitment of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at Public Institutions of Higher Education in Texas.** Austin, TX.

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Executive Summary

The Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 61.0664 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB or Coordinating Board) to conduct an ongoing study on the college recruitment of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). According to the statute, the study is to “identify previously made recruitment efforts, limitations on recruitment and possible methods for recruitment” for this population (TEC, Section 61.0664(c)). Reports are to be submitted to the governor and members of the Legislature by November 1 of each year.

Texas Education Code, Section 61.0663 mandates that the THECB maintain an inventory of postsecondary educational programs and services provided for persons with IDD by institutions of higher education. Senate Bill 1017, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, requires the inventory to be updated annually. The data from public institutions of higher education will be posted by institution on the Coordinating Board’s website and will be updated annually.

Introduction

On July 22, 2019, the THECB distributed a memorandum to the intellectual and developmental disabilities reporting contacts of all Texas public higher education institutions with instructions for accessing the survey and a request that survey responses be submitted to the THECB by August 22, 2019.

This Report on the Recruitment of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at Institutions of Higher Education is based on the results of that survey. It includes the number of institutions responding to the survey, a list of the survey questions, and, for those institutions reporting recruitment activities, a summary of their responses. In addition to the study on recruitment, TEC Section 61.0664 also requires that the THECB collect administrative data on students with IDD enrolled in public IHEs. Texas Administrative Code, Section 4.12 requires all IHEs to indicate whether an enrolled student is identified as having an IDD, which allows the agency to track their academic success. Those data collection efforts are included in this report during even-numbered years.

Report on the Recruitment of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at Public Institutions of Higher Education in Texas

The Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 61.0664 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to conduct an ongoing study on the college recruitment of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). According to the statute, the study is to “identify previously made recruitment efforts, limitations on recruitment and possible methods for recruitment” for this population (TEC Section 61.0664(c)). Reports are to be submitted to the governor and members of the Legislature by November 1 of each year.

The THECB staff, with the assistance of stakeholders from public institutions of higher education (IHEs) and the community, developed a survey instrument for collecting recruitment-related data. On July 22, 2019, the THECB distributed a memorandum to public institution contacts with instructions for accessing the survey and a request that responses be submitted by August 22, 2019.

Eighty-one institutions responded to the 2019 recruitment report. Of that number, 22 reported they engaged in some sort of recruitment activity targeting students with IDD. Among these 22 institutions, 11 specifically recruited to a special program for students with IDD, while 15 recruited students with IDD into their general academic population. Four institutions recruited to both. The 81 institutions responded to the survey as follows regarding their general recruitment of students with IDD:

- Present information at secondary schools (85.7%)
- Participate in career or transition fairs (81.0%)
- Distribute materials about programs and services for students with IDD (76.2%)
- Include information for potential students with IDD in general college materials (76.2%)
- Collaborate with the Texas Workforce Commission – Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWC-VR) to connect with populations that may benefit from these programs (10.0%)

The most successful recruitment activities mentioned by institutions were connections with K-12 partners and TWC-VR. The commonly cited limitations to recruiting students with IDD to institutions of higher education included:

- Having insufficient time and staff to address appropriately the needs for these recruitment efforts
- Inability of students with IDD to attend recruitment activities due to unavailability of transportation
- Lack of financial aid for students enrolling in certain types of transitional programs for students with IDD

The recruitment activities and overall percentages were consistent with those stated in the 2018 report. Eighty-one institutions responded to the 2018 recruitment report as well.

A copy of the recruitment questions is provided as Appendix A.

To meet the requirement to conduct an ongoing study on recruitment of persons with IDD, the THECB will continue to update and distribute the survey annually in the summer and provide updated information to the governor and members of the Legislature.

Conclusion

The progress described in this report reflects the work of individuals in higher education institutions, K-12 schools and districts, the TWC staff, parents, and community advocacy groups. These groups must continue to work closely together to provide improved recruitment of persons with IDD at public institutions of higher education in Texas.

The Texas Education Code, Section 61.06641 directs the Coordinating Board to establish an advisory council to periodically review the policies and practices that increase access to higher education opportunities for persons with IDD.

The Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council is charged with the following:

- (1) **Studying the accessibility of higher education** for persons with IDD;
- (2) **Providing advice regarding resolving barriers** to accessing higher education for persons with IDD; and
- (3) **Identifying, evaluating, and developing recommendations to address specific barriers** to accessing higher education for persons with IDD who are or have been in the foster care system and any related data collection concerns.

The council will develop and distribute educational outreach materials to increase awareness regarding postsecondary opportunities for this population. The THECB will also share recommendations from the advisory council with institutions and stakeholders. The IDD Advisory Council members are currently being nominated, and the first meeting is scheduled in January 2020.

In addition, the THECB and the TWC have created a partnership through the Advise TX program to provide services to IDD students and students with other disabilities. Advise TX will support the provision of services to students with disabilities in high schools. The THECB trained the current Advise TX Advisers. The training focused on how advisers support students with disabilities and provide instruction in self-advocacy. Advisers will foster greater access to and success in postsecondary education among students with disabilities.

The THECB, the IDD Advisory Council, and these organizations will work to improve access to higher education for individuals with IDD. In order to meet the goals of *60x30TX*, we must look down the road and see students of every background succeeding in Texas.

Appendix A:
Survey Questions regarding Recruitment of Persons with
Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities
July/August 2019

Within the past year, has your institution taken steps to specifically recruit students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD)? Check all that apply.

- Yes – Into a Postsecondary Program for Students with IDD
- Yes – Into general academic courses at the institution
- No

Which of the following actions have you taken to recruit persons with IDD? Only select if the recruitment activity was specifically targeted for individuals with IDD. Check all that apply.

- Post program or service information on third-party website (example: thinkcollege.net)
- Operate a website for postsecondary transition programs for students with IDD
- Distribute materials about programs and services
- Present information at secondary schools
- Present at parent advocacy and support groups
- Include information in general college materials, such as websites, orientation sessions
- Participate in career fairs or transition fairs
- Offer campus or program tours for students with IDD
- Prepare recruitment counselors to include information about recruiting special populations
- None

List other recruitment activities you have undertaken for students with IDD that were not included in the list above.

List approaches have been successful for your institution in recruiting students with IDD.

List issues have that you have found that limit your ability to recruit students with IDD and how have you addressed them.

If applicable, please provide additional information about your institution's goals, efforts or future plans to recruit students with IDD.



This document is available on the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website](#).

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