

**Policy Outcomes of
the 85th Texas
Legislature (Regular
Session)**



**Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board**

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Status of the 85th Legislature

- The 85th Texas Legislature ended its Regular Session on May 29.
- Governor Abbott called a Special Session of the Legislature that began on July 18 and may last up to 30 days.
- The Governor included 20 items for consideration by the Legislature, but may expand that list at any time.



Board Recommendations

Major Board Recommendations ADOPTED by the Legislature:

Oversight of Career Colleges

SB 1781 by Sen. West (House Sponsor: Rep. M. Gonzalez)

This legislation strengthens the Coordinating Board's oversight of for-profit degree-granting institutions of higher education. The legislation helps ensure solvency and stability of these institutions so that they will continue to serve their students. The bill also allows the Coordinating Board to maintain a repository for academic records.

The General Appropriations Act for FY18-19 includes \$500,000 in the Coordinating Board's budget for implementation of this legislation.



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Board Recommendations

Major Board Recommendations ADOPTED by the Legislature:

Student Debt Letters

SB 887 by Sen. Seliger (House Sponsor: Rep. Clardy)

This act requires institutions of higher education to provide students, at least annually, estimates regarding their education loan debt in an electronic form. The disclosure to the student must include an estimate of the total amount of state and federal education loans incurred by the student, an estimate of the total payoff amount, or a range for that amount, including principal and interest, and an estimate of the monthly repayment amount that the student may incur.



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Board Recommendations

Major Board Recommendations ADOPTED by the Legislature:

Returning Adult Students

SB 1782 by Sen. West (House Sponsor: Rep. Clardy)

This bill allows returning adult students a one-time exemption from current restrictions on state formula funding, including the “six-drop rule,” “30-hour” and “45-hour rules,” and the “three-peat” rule. SB 1782 is meant to encourage adult students who have dropped a number of courses or exceeded the number of courses required for their degree plans to return to school and finish their degrees.



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Board Recommendations

Major Board Recommendations ADOPTED by the Legislature:

Community College Baccalaureate Degrees

SB 2118 by Sen. Seliger (House Sponsor: Rep. Davis)

This bill allows the Coordinating Board to authorize baccalaureate degree programs in nursing, applied technology and applied science at community colleges under certain restrictions. Eligible community colleges must have a minimum taxable valuation of \$6 billion and are limited to offering three baccalaureate degree programs at any time. The Coordinating Board is required to use the same standards and criteria for approving baccalaureate degree programs at universities, as well as some standards specific to these degrees.



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Board Recommendations

Major Board Recommendations ADOPTED by the Legislature:

Prioritizing Graduate Medical Education

HCR 102 by Rep. Lozano (Senate Sponsor: Sen. Schwertner)

This concurrent resolution states that the Legislature expresses its support for prioritizing a substantial increase in funding for graduate medical education before it considers authorizing the creation and support of additional medical schools in the state. It also charges the Coordinating Board to work with institutions of higher education and the medical community to achieve the 1.1 to 1 goal for graduate medical education.



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Board Recommendations

Major Board Recommendations NOT ADOPTED by the Legislature:

Coordinating the Expansion of Higher Education

SB 828 by Sen Seliger/HB 1737 by Rep Alvarado

This legislation would have created a process whereby the Coordinating Board would review and approve only institutions' proposed new academic and research locations outside of their existing campuses to prevent unnecessary duplication.

SB 828 passed the Senate, but was not finally adopted in the House.



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Board Recommendations

Major Board Recommendations NOT ADOPTED by the Legislature:

Financial Aid Recommendations

The Coordinating Board made recommendations to increase the effectiveness of the TEXAS Grant and TEOG programs, and to restructure off-campus work-study (Texas WORKS).

No financial aid legislation advanced due to concern over its susceptibility to amendments that would limit the program to students eligible for federal financial aid. This would bar undocumented students from participating in these programs.



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Board Recommendations

Major Board Recommendations NOT ADOPTED by the Legislature:

Outcomes Based Funding for Universities

The Coordinating Board recommended that General Academic Institutions be funded, in part, through a Graduation Bonus that would award \$500 for each undergraduate degree awarded, increased to \$1,000 if the degree is awarded to a student at-risk of non-completion.

While multiple bills were filed to implement outcomes-based funding, none advanced.



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Board Recommendation Summary

Description	Bill Number and Author (Bill number in bold passed)	Status (As of 06/05/17)
CATEGORY 1 -- BOARD/COMMISSIONER LEVEL		
Coordination of the expansion of higher education	HB 1737 by Alvarado/ SB 828 by Seliger/West	DID NOT PASS
Oversight of degree granting colleges and universities other than public institutions	HB 4220 by M. Gonzalez/ HB 2156 by J. Rodriguez/ SB 1781 by West (M. Gonzalez)	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Improving access and student outcomes in the TEXAS Grant Program	HB 4106 by Morrison/ SB 885 by Seliger	DID NOT PASS
Improving access and student outcomes in the TEOG program	HB 653 by Clardy/ SB 886 by Seliger	DID NOT PASS
Implementing outcomes-based funding for universities and supporting funding community college success points	HB 430 by Jarvis/ HB 1241 by Giddings/ SB 34 by Zaffrini/ SB 1892 by Bettencourt	DID NOT PASS
CATEGORY 2 -- COMMISSIONER/ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER LEVEL		
Requiring certain information on financial aid award letters to students	HB 836 by Clardy/ SB 887 by Seliger (Clardy)	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Elimination of certain formula funding and dropped course restrictions for returning adult students	HB 654 by Clardy/ SB 1782 by West (Clardy)	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Authorizing opportunities for certain community colleges to offer new baccalaureate degrees in nursing and applied science	HB 4092 by Davis/ SB 2118 by Seliger (Davis)	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Prioritizing graduate medical education over the creation of new medical schools	HCR 102 by Lozano (Schwertner)	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Requiring the Coordinating Board to perform a Study on Shortages in Certain Health Professions	HB 3048 by Ortega	DID NOT PASS
Relating to the Texas college work-study program and to establishing a program for the off-campus employment of certain students at public or private institutions of higher education (Texas WORKS)	HB 3179 by Lozano/ SB 1467 by West	DID NOT PASS
CATEGORY 3 -- PROGRAMMATIC STAFF LEVEL		
Updating the statute relating to the Work-Study Mentorship Program	HB 796 by Clardy/ SB 2082 by L. Taylor (Clardy)	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Updating the provisions of the common admission application	HB 3585 by Turner/ SB 1813 by Buckingham (Turner)	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Expanding the applicability of the Statewide Preceptorship Program	SB 491 by Watson (Howard)	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Updating the student loan program statute	SB 2048 by Bettencourt	DID NOT PASS
Higher Education Assistance Plans	SB 1794 by Menendez	DID NOT PASS

