

TASFAA Conference 88th Legislative Session:

Impact on Financial Aid

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Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner charles.contero-puls@highered.texas.gov

Grant and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP)

https://cbgapp.highered.texas.gov

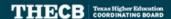
Online Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)

https://www.highered.texas.gov/tasfa

New Financial Aid Programs

Nine financial aid programs were created or revived –

Not all were funded



Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program

Program Authority: Statute was created to allow educationally disadvantaged high school students to enroll in dual credit coursework at no cost to the student (HB 8)

Funding: Automatically increases to support however many students are eligible; Annual funding estimated at \$39.3 million

Effective: For the 2023-2024 academic year

Rules:

- Emergency Rules issued September 8, 2023, in the Texas Register
- Proposed Rules will be published October 13, 2023, in the Texas Register



Transfer Grant Program

Program Authority: Authority provided to pursue a state-funded transfer grant program based on lessons learned from the GEER-funded transfer grant program (General Appropriations Act)

Funding: FY24 funding: ~\$5 million; FY25 funding: ~\$10 million

Effective: Spring 2024

Rules: Proposed Rules will be published October 13, 2023, in the Texas Register



Nursing Scholarship Program and Nursing Loan Repayment Program

Program Authority: A prior statute was amended authorizing the agency to develop both a nursing scholarship and a nursing loan repayment program (SB 25)

Funding: Annual funding: \$12.5 million

Effective: Scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year (The loan repayment program was not funded)

Rules: Negotiated rulemaking will lead to proposed rules that will be published in April 2024



Texas Leadership Scholars Program

Program Authority: Texas Leadership Scholars Program codified in law based on the pilot program that had been funded with GEER dollars (HB 1590)

Funding: Funding will support an entering cohort of 300 students each year

Effective: 2023-2024 academic year

Rules: Proposed Rules will be published October 13, 2023, in the Texas Register



Senfronia Thompson Scholarship

Program Authority: A rider was provided authorizing the agency to create the Senfronia

Thompson Scholarship

Funding: Annual funding: \$500,000

Effective: Still being determined



Competency-Based Education Grant Program

Program Authority: Statute was created to provide grants for students pursuing degrees through competency-based education programs (HB 4005)

Funding: Program was created but was not funded



Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program

Program Authority: Statute was created to provide grants for students pursuing teaching degrees (HB 4363)

Funding: Program was created but was not funded



Digital Textbooks Grant Program

Program Authority: Statute was created to allow a pilot program providing financial assistance to students for the cost of accessing digital course materials (HB 2177)

Funding: Program was created but was not funded



Current Financial Aid Programs

Ten programs saw modifications to eligibility and significant increases to funding

Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program

Expanded eligibility: Allows 2-year institutions to use Pell Grant funding when calculating the required coverage of all tuition and fees (HB 8); the agency also conducted negotiated rulemaking to identify ways to expand eligibility to a broader array of certificate programs

Funding: Annual funding increased 132% to \$122.1 million

Effective: Pell Grant change effective beginning with the 2024 fall semester

Rules: Proposed Rules will be published October 13, 2023, in the Texas Register



TEXAS Grant Program

Expanded eligibility: Authority provided to pursue mechanisms to guarantee TEXAS Grant funding for Top 10% students (General Appropriations Act)

Funding: Annual funding increased >10%

Rules: THECB will work with institutions to determine if rule changes are needed to achieve the expanded eligibility



Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program

Expanded eligibility: ROTC requirement altered from a 4-year requirement to one year of ROTC for each year receiving the scholarship (SB 371)

Funding: Annual funding increased 120% to \$7.3 million

Effective: Scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year

Rules: Proposed Rules will be published in the Texas Register in January 2024



Texas First Scholarship Program

Expanded eligibility: Expands eligible institutions from current ten to all Texas public institutions of higher education (SB 2294)

Funding: Automatically increases to support however many students are eligible

Effective: Scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year

Rules: Proposed Rules will be published in the Texas Register later in October



Bilingual Education Scholarship Program

Expanded eligibility: Removes the requirement to pass State Board proficiency test prior to receiving the scholarship (General Appropriations Act); Adds five additional eligible institutions (General Appropriations Act)

Funding: Annual funding increased 50% to \$1.1 million

Effective: Scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year

Rules: Not applicable; program is governed by General Appropriations Act, THECB Rider 43 (page III-65)



Mental Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program

Expanded eligibility: State hospitals and local mental health authorities added as eligible sites (HB 2100); School psychologists added as eligible profession (HB 1211); Service requirement reduced to three years (SB 532)

Increased funding: Annual funding increased 1,251% to \$14 million

Effective: For applicants who first apply and demonstrate eligibility on or after 9/1/23

Rules: Proposed Rules will be published in the Texas Register later in October



Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program

Expanded eligibility: Eligibility extended to part-time faculty (SB 25); Agency given authority to set maximum annual repayment amount (SB 25)

Increased funding: Annual funding increased 139% to \$3.5 million

Effective: For applicants who first apply and demonstrate eligibility on or after 9/1/23

Rules: Proposed Rules will be published in the Texas Register in April 2024



Math and Science Scholars Loan Repayment Program

Expanded eligibility: Requirement to work at a Title I school removed (SB 532)

Funding: No change

Effective: For applicants who first apply and demonstrate eligibility on or after 9/1/23

Rules: Proposed Rules will be published in the Texas Register in January 2024



Physician Loan Repayment Program

Eligibility: No changes

Funding: Annual funding increased 21% to \$17.8 million





Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program

Expanded eligibility: Increases the population that qualifies as a "rural county" to 150,000 (HB 2026); Requires THECB to hold the promissory note to program recipients (HB 2026)

Funding: Funded via the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Effective: On signing by the Governor (June 18)

Rules: Rules are managed by the Texas Animal Health Commission



Other Changes & Funding Increases

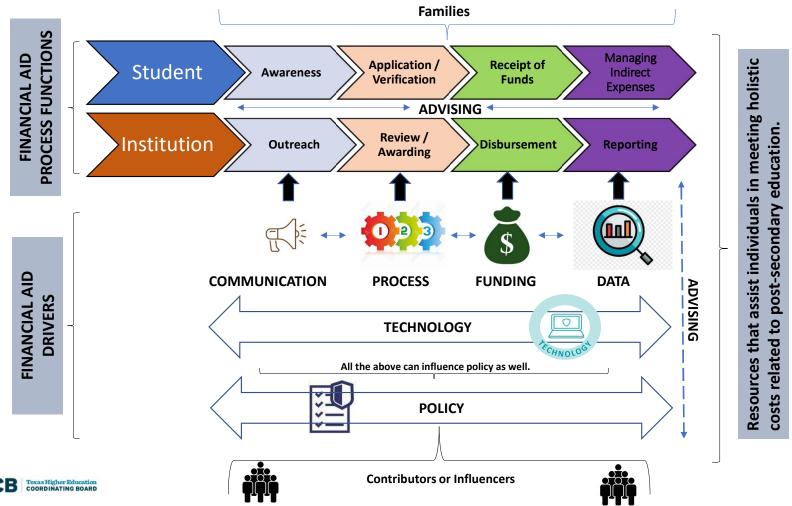
- TPEG policy reporting requirement removed (General Appropriations Act)
- \$92.4 million to reimburse institutions for Hazlewood Legacy Exemptions (funds roughly 70% of the cost of the program)
- TEG received increased funding
- The "Taps" exemption was repealed (SB 1859)
- The agency was given the authority to disburse any remaining B-On-Time loan set-asides in FY25 (General Appropriations Act)
- Student data further protected from public information inquiries (HB 8)



Financial Aid Ecosystem

Supporting THECB's strategic planning

Financial Aid Ecosystem



Beneficiary
of Aid is the
STUDENT



Educational Institutions - State & Federal Gov't - Policy Makers - Non-Profits - Community & Trade Associations - Donors

