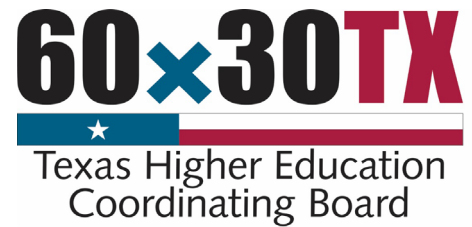


# OVERVIEW: TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD



OCTOBER 2019

## PURPOSE

---

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system 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.

The THECB was created by the Texas Legislature in 1965 to represent the highest authority in the state in matters of public higher education and is charged with the duty to take an active part in promoting quality education throughout the state. Most of the statutes that are applicable to the THECB are found in the Texas Education Code, Title 3, Section 61.

The agency's overall responsibilities include (per Texas Education Code 61.051):

- Providing a statewide perspective to ensure the efficient and effective use of higher education resources and to eliminate unnecessary duplication;
- Developing and evaluating progress toward a long-range master plan for higher education and providing analysis and recommendations to link state spending for higher education with the goals of the long-range master plan;
- Collecting and making accessible data on higher education in the state and aggregating and analyzing that data to support policy recommendations;
- Making recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of transitions, including between high school and postsecondary education, between institutions of higher education for transfer purposes, and between postsecondary education and the workforce;
- Administering programs and trusteed funds for financial aid and other grants as necessary to achieve the state's long-range goals and as directed by the legislature;
- Developing a long-range master plan for Texas higher education that establishes long-term, measurable goals and provides strategies for implementing those goals, and providing for regular evaluation and revision of the plan, as the Board considers necessary, to ensure the relevance of goals and strategies;
- Assessing the higher education needs of each region of the state, taking into account the resources of private or independent institutions of higher education; and
- Evaluating the role and mission of each general academic teaching institution, other than a public state college, to ensure that the roles and missions of the institutions collectively contribute to the state's goals identified in the master plan.

## BOARD MEMBERSHIP

---

The Board consists of 10 members appointed by the governor. The governor also appoints the chair and vice chair. Board members serve six-year terms, except for the non-voting student board member who serves a one-year term beginning on June 1 and ending on May 31.

The chairman appoints Board members to serve on committees, which are the Committee on Academic and Workforce Success (CAWS), Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning (CAAP), and the Agency Operations Committee (AOC).

Various advisory committees are appointed by the Board as necessary to provide advice and 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 live via the Internet. Regular meetings are held in January, April, July, and October. Additional meetings may be called by the chair.

## ORGANIZATION

---

The agency currently has 232 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees and is authorized by the General Appropriations Act to employ a maximum of 266.4 FTE positions. The agency's total annual budget is \$899.9 million, with \$31.1 million for operations and \$868.8 million in trusteed funds that are allocated to institutions, students, and other eligible recipients. The agency also administers community college funding in the amount of \$936.5 million.

Most agency 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 Quality and Workforce, Strategic Planning and Funding, College Readiness and Success, and Innovation and Policy Development. Divisions under the Deputy Commissioner for Agency Operations and Communications/Chief Operating Officer are Financial Services (which includes student grant and loan functions), Information Solutions and Services, Human Resources, and External Relations. Reporting directly to the Board and to the Commissioner is the General Counsel and Director of Internal Audit and Compliance.

## HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

---

Texas has a total of 148 public and independent institutions of higher education.

**Public institutions:** The state has 106 total public higher education institutions: 37 public four-year universities and associated academic centers (6 university systems); three public state colleges; 50 public community college districts with multiple campuses; six public technical colleges; and 10 public health-related institutions.

**Independent institutions:** The state has 42 independent institutions: 38 independent universities; one junior college; one health-related institution; one chiropractic institution; and one law school.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

---

Other key responsibilities of the THECB are:

- Reviews and recommends changes in formulas for allocating legislative appropriations to higher education institutions, and advise the governor and legislature on higher education funding needs.
- Provides Texans with information about preparing academically and financially for higher education.
- Develops a recommended core curricula to promote transfer of course credit among Texas public higher education institutions.
- Conducts studies and makes recommendations on achieving excellence in or improving higher education.
- Provides reports to the legislature on policy issues.
- Creates and publishes statewide standards for boards of regents to consider regarding capital projects.
- Administers the state's student financial aid programs, including the Toward EXcellence, Access, & Success (TEXAS) Grant Program, Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) and the Hinson-Hazlewood College Student Loan Program.
- Administers the Texas Success Initiative to help ensure new college students have the reading, writing, and math skills they need to do college-level work.
- Approves and monitors postsecondary technical/vocational educational programs and adult vocational education offerings.

- Approves degree programs at career colleges offering degree programs and regulates unaccredited private postsecondary institutions.
- Collects and reports data on higher education.
- Authorizes the creation of public community college districts and adopts standards for operating public community and technical colleges.
- Engages in the negotiated rulemaking process with affected stakeholders in the development of certain rules, policies and procedures.

Most of the THECB statutory authority is in Subchapter C, Section 61.051 of the Texas Education Code.

### **Coordinating Board Members**

Stuart W. Stedman, Chair (*Houston*)  
 Fred Farias III, O.D., Vice-Chair (*McAllen*)  
 Lauren C. McKenzie, Student Representative (*Lubbock*)  
 S. Javaid Anwar (*Midland*)  
 Ricky A. Raven (*Sugar Land*)  
 Emma Schwartz (*El Paso*)  
 Donna N. Williams (*Arlington*)  
 Welcome W. Wilson, Jr. (*Houston*)

### **Board Standing Committees**

#### **Committee on Academic and Workforce Success (CAWS)**

Fred Farias III, O.D., Chair  
 Donna N. Williams, Vice Chair  
 Ricky A. Raven  
 Stuart W. Stedman  
 Welcome W. Wilson, Jr.  
 Lauren C. McKenzie (Student Representative), Ex-Officio

#### **Committee on Affordability, Accountability and Planning (CAAP)**

S. Javaid Anwar, Chair  
 Welcome W. Wilson, Jr., Vice Chair  
 Ricky A. Raven  
 Stuart W. Stedman  
 Donna N. Williams  
 Lauren C. McKenzie (Student Representative), Ex-Officio

#### **Agency Operations Committee (AOC)**

Ricky A. Raven, Vice Chair  
 S. Javaid Anwar  
 Fred Farias III, O.D.  
 Stuart W. Stedman  
 Lauren C. McKenzie (Student Representative), Ex-Officio

## **Executive Officers**

Dr. Harrison Keller  
*Commissioner of Higher Education*

Dr. David Gardner  
*Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy/Chief Academic Officer*

Linda Battles  
*Deputy Commissioner for Agency Operations and Communications/Chief Operating Officer*

Bill Franz  
*General Counsel*

Dr. Julie Eklund  
*Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Funding*

Zhenzhen Sun  
*Assistant Commissioner for Information Solutions and Services*

Jerel Booker  
*Assistant Commissioner for College Readiness and Success*

Ken Martin  
*Assistant Commissioner for Financial Services/Chief Finance Officer*

Dr. Stacey Silverman  
*Interim Assistant Commissioner for Academic Quality and Workforce*

John Wyatt  
*Senior Director, External Relations*

**For more information:  
Office of External Relations  
512-427-6111  
er@theccb.state.tx.us**