

Program Authority and Purpose

The purpose of this program (*in conjunction with the [Texas First Program Diploma](#)*) is to promote efficiency in the state public education system and encourage the enrollment of high performing students at Texas public institutions of higher education (see [Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 22, Subchapter T](#)).

Eligible Institutions

All Texas public institutions of higher education, defined in [TEC, Title 3, Section 61.003](#), are required to apply the state credit offered to an eligible, enrolled student through this program.

Program Eligibility

To receive a scholarship, *as a state credit*, a student **must**:

- be enrolled at an eligible institution;
- be a resident of Texas;
- be registered for Selective Service, or be exempt; *and*
- have graduated early from high school under the Texas First Program with the Distinguished Level of Achievement.

Discontinuation of Eligibility

A state credit awarded to an eligible student expires at the end of the first academic year following the student's graduation from high school. If any portion of a state credit is unused, the remaining amount may be applied to subsequent semesters ONLY if it is within the first academic year following the student's graduation from high school.

Scholarship Certificate

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) will issue a certificate to eligible students indicating the amount of state credit a student has available if enrolled at an eligible public institution. To receive a certificate, the student's high school counselor (or administrator) **must** verify that the student has met all eligibility requirements for the Texas First Program Diploma and its Distinguished Level of Achievement.

Award Amounts

The amount of state credit offered to the student is contingent on the number of semesters the student graduates early and the maximum annual (two semester) Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant award amount for the applicable academic year, which is determined by the THECB (see [TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Section 22.555](#)).

Upon enrollment of an eligible Texas First Early High School graduate, the institution must apply a state credit to the student's charges that is equal to the lesser of:

- the amount of the state credit available to the student; *or*
- the student's actual tuition, mandatory fees, and other costs of attendance at the institution.

Note: The amount of state credit offered to a student may **NOT** be considered in the calculation of any state or institutional need-based aid awards or the calculation of the student's overall financial need, unless the combination of the credit and other federal, state, and institutional financial aid (excluding work-study and loan programs) exceeds the student's estimated total cost of attendance (COA).

Institutional Rosters

Program rosters containing a list of students who have been issued a scholarship certificate can be accessed via the institution's **Grant_Output** folder in [MOVEit DMZ](#). Roster updates will be made available on the Friday of every week that new students are added; otherwise, any previous roster upload will remain in place. MOVEit DMZ does not generate a "file upload" notification, so institutions should determine their file retrieval frequency.

Processing Funds

The THECB will reimburse each eligible institution the amount of state credit applied to an eligible student's account during the **preceding** academic year. The institution's annual Financial Aid Database (FAD) submission will be used to calculate the reimbursement amount (see [TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Section 22.556](#)).

For questions, call Financial Aid Services at (844) 792-2640 or send an inquiry through [CONTACT US](#) (select "Financial Aid Question" as the Contact Reason).