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Memorandum

To: Directors of Financial Aid, Public and Private/Independent
Institutions of Higher Education

From: DeChà Reid
Director III, Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP) Operations

Date: February 27, 2024

Subject: IMPORTANT UPDATE: 2024-25 (FY 2025) State Financial Aid
Priority Deadline Date

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has extended the 2024-25 (FY 2025) state financial aid application priority deadline from **March 15, 2024**, to **April 15, 2024**, due to exigent circumstances related to federal aid development, as authorized under [Texas Administrative Code 22.6\(3\)](#). The updated priority deadline will be immediately published on the THECB's public website.

As a reminder, the state priority deadline is a requirement for General Academic Teaching Institutions (GATIs) including Lamar State College Orange and Lamar State College Port Arthur, as defined in [TEC, Title 3, Section 61.003\(3\)](#). The other institutions of higher education are encouraged to utilize the deadline but are not required to do so.

Institutions have flexibility to define how their students must meet the priority deadline. However, the Department of Education's recent workaround for individuals whose contributor(s) do not have a valid social security number should be honored by institutions for the 2024-25 award year, when determining a student's eligibility for meeting the priority deadline ([see Federal Student Aid Announcement](#)).

The priority deadline is neither a guarantee to receive funding if a student applies by the applicable date for the academic year, nor is it a restriction to those that apply beyond the date. It is a mechanism that is used to evaluate similarly situated students to prioritize limited funding and to encourage students to complete their application timely to increase the likelihood of receiving state funding. While the priority deadline extension is not intended to deter individuals from completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), it acknowledges that many individuals continue to face technical challenges in their effort to submit the FAFSA.

For questions, please call 844-792-2640 or submit an online inquiry through [CONTACT US](#) (select "Financial Aid Question" for the Contact Reason).

cc: Presidents and Chancellors, Public and Private/Independent
Institutions of Higher Education