

FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAAC)

Handouts for the March 4, 2021, meeting:

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Financial Aid Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Name of Committee: Financial Aid Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: March 4, 2021
Time of Meeting: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting

Texas Register Posting

- 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Meeting
- 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on December 10, 2020
- 3. Update: Prior FAAC Business
- 4. Joint Update: House Bill 3 (Financial Aid Application Graduation Requirement); House Bill 2140 (On-line TASFAA); and TASFA Subcommittee
- 5. Update: External Relations
- 6. Update: Legislative Recommendations Subcommittee
- 7. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee
- 8. Update: TASFAA Insights and Recommendations
- 9. Update: School District Insights and Recommendations
- 10. Update: FAAC Nomination Process
- 11. Discussion: Texas Administrative Code Chapter 1, Subchapter J, Related to the Financial Aid Advisory Committee
- 12. Discussion: Impact of FAFSA Simplification Act on Institutional Aid Offices
- 13. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs
- 14. Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings
- 15. Adjournment

Governor Abbott's office approved a request by the Office of the Attorney General to temporarily suspend a limited number of open meeting laws in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disaster. This action will allow governmental bodies to conduct meetings by telephone or video conference to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID -1 9). All persons requesting to address the Committee regarding an item on the agenda should do so in writing at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting at Wanda.Carr@HigherEd.Texas.gov. A toll-free telephone number, free-of-charge video conference link, or other means will be provided by which to do so.

(To be approved at the March 4, 2021, FAAC Meeting)

Committee Members in A	ttendance Via <u>Virtual</u> Meeting Connection	Committee Members Absent
Ed Kerestly (Chair)	Tam Nguyen	Paul Galyean
Denise Welch (Vice Chair)	Holly Nolan	
Robert Merino (Past Chair)	Shonna Norton	
Charles Contéro-Puls	Steven Peterson	
Taryn Anderson	Thomas Ratliff	
Dr. Ben Bholan	Kelly Steelman	
Victoria Chen	Joy Thomas	
Rachele Garrett	Formon Thompson	
Dede Gonzales	Arnold Trejo	
Heidi Granger	Jase Kugiya (Student Rep)	
Bridgette Ingram		

Agenda Item 1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting	Ed Kerestly, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: • Due to nature of virtual meetings, roll call of members ensured a quorum of committee members.	

Agenda Item 2. Discussion: Membership	Expectations	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: General reminders for reviewing meeting materials ahead of time to be ready and have a productive meeting.		

Agenda Item 3. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on September 3, 2020	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Minutes approved
Presentation Summary: No corrections were identified	

Agenda Item 4. Discussion and Consideration: 2021 Meeting Dates	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Dates approved
Meeting dates presented: • March 4, 2021	

June 3, 2021 September 2, 2021 December 9, 2021

• No conflicts were presented by the members

Agenda Item 5. Update: Prior Business	Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A

Prepared: 1-21-2020 / Finalized: _____-2021 by Dr. Charles Contéro-Puls

(To be approved at the March 4, 2021, FAAC Meeting)

Presentation Summary:

- Since this agenda item was taken out of order in the meeting, Dr. Contero-Puls was able to address some prior business that occurred earlier in the meeting regarding questions that had not been answered for Agenda Item #6.:
 - How will data submitted through electronic TASFA be shared and passed to higher education institutions for integration into their financial aid software? While this is very much in development process, TASFAC discussed modeling the data transfer around the same xml file protocol that is used for FAFSA data.
 - How quickly will the electronic TASFA occur? Statute is written to have the electronic TASFA take effect in October 2021; the agency acknowledges that the work that is done developing the electronic TASFA will need to be done in parallel with institutions to help them prepare for this.
 - Have software companies been included in any discussions? TASFAC included a subcommittee focused on the
 operational aspects, which discussed how the process has worked with other states and organizations. TASFAC
 was a high-level discussion to develop the report for the legislature, while the actual development process is the
 next step.
- Ongoing discussion about state priority deadline:
 - The Commissioner's annual state of higher education address highlighted several initiatives to increase higher education attainment such as GradTX 2.0 for returning adult learners, reskilling/upskilling efforts, and Tri-agency workforce initiative to link education and workforce to spur economic growth in Texas.
 - Financial aid policy will influence all these initiatives.
 - Dr. Contéro-Puls suggested that it may be more effective to inform the discussions occurring around these
 initiatives, rather than working on the priority deadline as its own piece.
 - Committee agreed it was better to focus on informing other aid-related discussions as to the impact of the priority deadline.
 - Question Has there been discussion on adjusting the priority deadline this year due to the pandemic?
 - Currently, no feedback has been received from institutions encouraging the agency to request a waiver
 of the rule to extend the deadline.
 - The FAAC concluded that the cons of changing the deadline outweighed the pros. The recommendation was to stay with the priority deadline but to pursue a "it's not too late to file" campaign. The committee discussed working within their institutions and with TASFAA to put together a campaign. Chad will pass along the campaign idea to the agency's College Readiness and Success division, as there may be opportunities for CRS to build something into their outreach activities (Advise Texas, Apply Texas, GenTX, etc.)
- FAAC Administrative Code change to reduce the student representatives from two to one.
 - The FAAC administrative Code will need to be updated to extend the 4-year abolishment date. Rather than submitting the abolishment date change and the student rep change separately, they will be presented together, along with any other suggestions that come from a March discussion of the current code.
- Timely distribution rules applicable to work-study funding
 - o Dr. Contéro-Puls researched the concern that had been raised at the prior FAAC meeting (e.g. the thought that the federal work-study program doesn't have a similar time restriction). The Federal Student Aid Handbook indicates that the federal work-study program does have a timely distribution requirement. In light of this, amendments will be proposed to update the state's timely distribution rules to include the state work-study program. The work-study funding request process will mimic the grant funding request process (e.g. just two fields in an on-line form will be required).

Agenda Item 6. Joint Updates: HB3 FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement, on-line TASFA, and FAAC TASFA Sub-committee	Alexis Bauserman, Texas Education Agency; Claudette Jenks, Director, College Readiness and Success; and Robert Merino, TASFA subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A

Presentation Summary:

- Alexis Bauserman of TEA reviewed actions taken and next steps regarding the financial aid application graduation requirement.
- Claudette Jenks provided overview of the work completed by the TASFA Advisory Committee, since the update provided at the last FAAC meeting.
 - The report to the legislature included seven recommendations:
 - Require institutions to accept TASFA (online and paper formats) to verify student eligibility for state financial aid.
 - 2. Application collect all data necessary to calculate expected family contribution.
 - 3. Seek funding from Legislate for ongoing maintenance of the online TAFSA.
 - 4. Include a privacy statement indicating that the state would not share application information with anyone besides the institution(s) identified by the student; include a checkbox to acknowledge receipt of privacy statement.
 - 5. Offer Spanish language translation and suggested other languages for translation.

Prepared: 1-21-2020 / Finalized: _____-2021 by Dr. Charles Contéro-Puls

(To be approved at the March 4, 2021, FAAC Meeting)

- 6. Include pop up information explaining questions and sections of application similar to current FAFSA
- 7. Keep signature simple to protect against fraud; include two signature boxes student and parent
- Funding is an issue for implementation both the agency's implementation and the institutional efforts to integrate the application data into their financial aid systems.
- Software development could be inhouse vs third party vendor; costs and timing are considerations.
- Next steps: determining funding; reviewing timelines; review technical specifications; establishing ongoing processes; aligning online and paper TASFA; and then data collection and tracking student completion.
- Robert Merino indicated that the current TASFA was provided October
- · Discussion items:
 - Discussed the importance of ensuring K-12, higher ed, and community partners all have the same resources and toolkits to ensure everyone is working toward the same goal; targeting February/March for initial materials and a larger web resource in the summer.
 - Discussed the current lag in FAFSA completion, likely due to COVID-19, and efforts occurring to address this, such as the Future Focus TX Campaign (https://www.edtx.org/txcan/future-focused-tx), and near-peer advising via AdviseTX.
 - Discussed the criticality of getting the development efforts for the electronic TASFA started quickly.

Agenda Item 7. Presentation: Impact of Elections	Megan Coval, Vice President of Policy and Federal Relations, NASFAA
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary:	
 Ms. Covall provided NASFAA's federal update on: 	
 Dynamics in Congress 	
 COVID pandemic 	
 Higher Education Reauthorization 	
 Federal Budget and Funding 	
 Department of Education Update 	

Agenda Item 8. Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, Senior Director, External Relations
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A

Presentation Summary:

- Partisan balance in the state chambers is almost the same as prior to the election.
- Rep. Dade Phelan is the presumptive speaker of the house.
- Uncertain as to how the session will function and maintain health protocols for this session.
- Pace of bills being pre-filed is higher than it has been in the past, though it is expected that the pace of Legislature will be slower; likely that fewer bills will make it through the process.
- The Coordinating Board is very engaged; Commissioner's focus is to work with policymakers and institutions on their priorities and provide objective, insightful data and analysis to inform decision making.
- Funding state agencies were directed to prepare Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR) that assumes a 5% reduction in base funding, which would be \$57 million reduction for THECB.
 - LAR process includes opportunity to make exceptional funding request; two of the agency's requests relate to financial aid.
 - Requesting restoration of 5% reduction to prevent decline in financial aid funding.
 - o Requesting additional \$110 million to keep up with growing demand on financial aid.
- Some pre-filed bills related to financial aid include:
 - Senator Zaffirini: SB33 and SB34 would establish "Texas Promise" programs to create additional assistance for higher education 2-yr and 4-yr; SB35 would re-establish the TX B-On-Time loan program.
 - Senator Menendez: SB 101 would establish emergency aid for post-secondary students; SB103 would establish a first-generation matching scholarship program.
- Discussion items:
 - Question What's the probability of the exceptional item request to restore the 5% reduction? The Commissioner
 is a strong advocate for investing in higher education to promote economic recovery, but the funding available for
 the coming session is unknown currently.
 - Question Has there been any discussion of aligning the state's "debt letter" requirement with the new student debt annual notice at the federal level? The agency has not heard anything specific to this issue. So far, the big topics being mentioned are the budget gap, the coronavirus response, and redistricting. If elected officials are interested in "debt letter" revisions, then the agency will be there to assist them in that process.

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Agenda Item 9. Presentation: FAAC Annual Report	Robert Merino, Past Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: • Mr. Merino reviewed the recommendations and accomplishments provided in the report.	

Agenda Item 10. Discussion: TASFAA Insights and Recommendations	Taryn Anderson, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A

Presentation Summary:

- All training and conference opportunities have been moved online until at least October.
- Early Awareness Committee has an updated financial aid presentation for financial aid administrators to provide information to high school counselors/advisers regarding FAFSA completion.
- Recommendation: Potential to ease administrative burden through a revision of the state's student "debt letter" requirement
 - o Changes to the statute would be required, since the state and federal requirements aren't fully aligned.

Formal Design / Action Des	enda Item 11. Discussion: School District Insights and Recommendations	Ben Bholan and Shonna Norton
Handout Provided: No None	ndout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required None

Presentation Summary:

- Counselors are trying to get creative to get student to complete the FAFSA in the online learning environment.
- Trying to connect with students to get them graduated; some have dropped off the rolls during the pandemic.
- Waiting for TEA guidance on FAFSA graduation requirement to help prepare.s

Agenda Item 12. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	DeChà Reid, Director, Financial Aid Services, THECB	
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A	

Presentation Summary:

- November 2 meeting covered four topics:
 - Updates and enhancements to grant payment system, including updates to appropriation function to allow institutions to make changes to student count for FAD Cycle 3reconciliation process;
 - FAD instruction manual updates released in November, including reporting cycle dates; added language about CARES and GEER and reporting these data elements; updated annual award amounts;
 - Modernization project within Financial Aid Services to provide one-stop portal for institutions and CB staff to administer state financial aid programs, including potential considerations such as a single sign on for state aid systems; ability to update employee access to the various financial aid systems; centralized storage system; uploading files; loan certifications; financial aid questions; discussion board;
 - Updates on activities occurring in Financial Aid Services, including changes to financial aid webpages.
- Dr. Contero-Puls expressed his appreciation for this subcommittee; it is an excellent example of how a subcommittee
 contributes to the advisory committee and the agency

Agenda Item 13. Election of Vice Chair	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Denise Welch selected as Vice-Chair
Presentation Summary: • Denise Welch was nominated as vice-chair, seconded by Thomas Ratliff: all memb	ers voted in favor.

Agenda Item 14. Discussion and Consideration: Data Collection Subcommittee Chair	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Dede Gonzales selected as Subcommittee Chair
Presentation Summary: • Dede Gonzales was nominated as Chair: all members voted in favor	

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Agenda Item 15. Discussion and Consideration: Legislative Recommendation Subcommittee Chair	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Arnold Trejo selected as Subcommittee Chair
Presentation Summary:	

Agenda Item 16. Discussion: FAFSA State Deadline Language	Charles Contéro-Puls
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required FAFSA language will be submitted to NASSGAP
Presentation Summary: Proposed language simply updates the year referenced in the instructions. No additional changes were recommended.	

Agenda Item 17. Discussion: Proposed Texas Administrative Code Subchapter on Exemptions and Waivers	Charles Contéro-Puls
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Proposed rule amendments will be developed
Presentation Summany	

- Seeking committee feedback on whether the agency should consider combining the current 95 rules across 13 subchapters related to exemptions and waivers into a single subchapter in Chapter 22 of the Administrative Code.

 • The committee felt it would be beneficial to streamline the exemptions and waivers.

Agenda Item 18. Update: Office of SFAP	Charles Contéro-Puls
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: • Reviewed recent and upcoming rule activity, announcements, deadlines, and accompanies.	omplishments since last FAAC meeting.

Agenda Item 19. Discussion: Topics for Future Meetings	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Presentation Summary: • Topic suggestion: FAFSA simplification - need-analysis as a tool to assess financi	al need and its impact on state aid.

Agenda Item 20. Adjournment	Ed Kerestly
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Meeting Adjourned
Presentation Summary:	
Next meeting March 4, 2021	
Denise Welch moved to adjourn: Arnold Trejo seconded the motion.	

Prepared: 1-21-2020 / Finalized: ____ ___-2021

Summary of Fall 2020 Emergency Educational Grant Awards (Final Data as of 2/10/2021)

	# of Institutions	Recipients	% Recipients	Amount
4-Year/HRI	40	34,860	85%	\$41,795,603
2-Year	57	6,017	15%	\$4,637,345
Total	97	40,877	100%	\$46,432,948

Size of Emergency Educational Grant Award

	<u>4-Year/HRI</u>		<u>2-Year</u>			
	Recipients	% Recipients	Amount	Recipients	% Recipients	Amount
\$0-\$500	8,895	26%	\$3,518,180	2,273	38%	\$711,470
\$501 - \$1,000	10,146	29%	\$8,281,265	2,642	44%	\$2,228,336
\$1,001 - \$1,500	5,549	16%	\$7,081,308	672	11%	\$811,453
\$1,501 - \$2,000	3,745	11%	\$6,956,474	215	4%	\$375,977
\$2,001 - \$2,500	6,525	19%	\$15,958,376	215	4%	\$510,109
Total	34,860	100%	\$41,795,603	6,017	100%	\$4,637,345

Estimated Family Contribution Range

	<u>4-Year/HRI</u>			<u>2-Year</u>		
	Recipients	% Recipients	Amount	Recipients	% Recipients	Amount
\$0	11,607	33%	\$12,966,092	1,689	28%	\$1,310,516
\$1 - \$2,000	4,771	14%	\$5,487,678	492	8%	\$356,138
\$2,001 - \$4,000	3,592	10%	\$4,822,762	804	13%	\$516,019
\$4,001 - \$6,000	2,897	8%	\$4,089,158	1,054	18%	\$772,056
\$6,001 - \$8,000	2,800	8%	\$3,944,243	786	13%	\$675,367
\$8,001 - \$10,000	2,062	6%	\$2,804,812	553	9%	\$464,248
\$10,001+	7,131	20%	\$7,680,858	639	11%	\$543,001
Total	34,860	100%	\$41,795,603	6,017	100%	\$4,637,345

Race/Ethnicity

	<u>4-Year/HRI</u>			<u>2-Year</u>		
	Recipients	% Recipients	Amount	Recipients	% Recipients	Amount
African American	5,219	15%	\$6,856,746	953	16%	\$743,025
Asian	3,127	9%	\$2,959,492	226	4%	\$170,422
Hispanic	16,421	47%	\$20,623,802	2,813	47%	\$2,085,393
White	8,379	24%	\$9,301,665	1,434	24%	\$1,184,487
Other	1,461	4%	\$1,725,850	258	4%	\$192,145
Unknown	253	1%	\$328,048	333	6%	\$261,873
Total	34,860	100%	\$41,795,603	6,017	100%	\$4,637,345

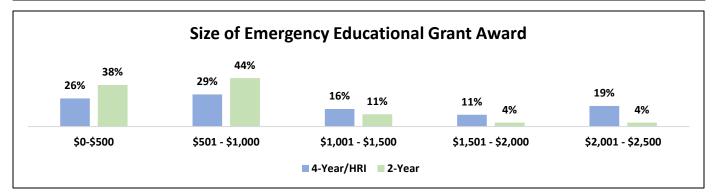
Gender

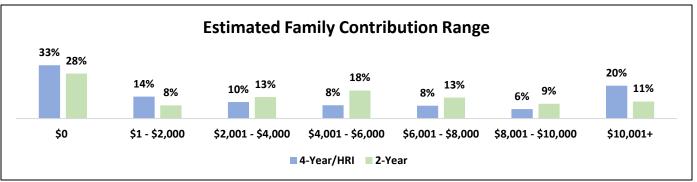
	<u>4-Year/HRI</u>			<u>2-Year</u>		
	Recipients % Recipients Amount			Recipients	% Recipients	Amount
Female	20,803	60%	\$24,579,031	3,804	63%	\$2,863,702
Male	13,804	40%	\$16,888,524	1,880	31%	\$1,511,770
Unknown	253	1%	\$328,048	333	6%	\$261,873
Total	34,860	100%	\$41,795,603	6,017	100%	\$4,637,345

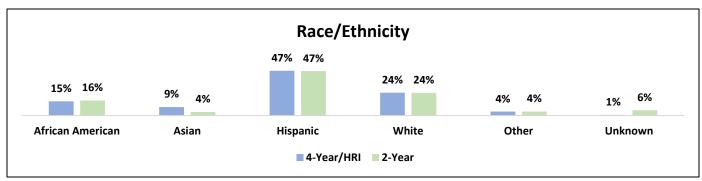
Summary of Fall 2020 Emergency Educational Grant Awards (Final Data as of 2/10/2021)

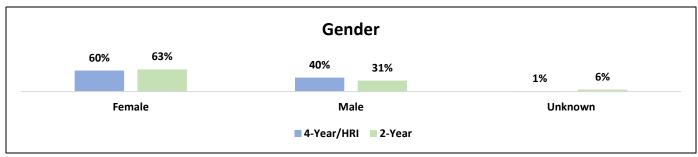
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Summary of Fall 2020 Emergency Educational Grant Awards (Final Data as of 2/10/2021)

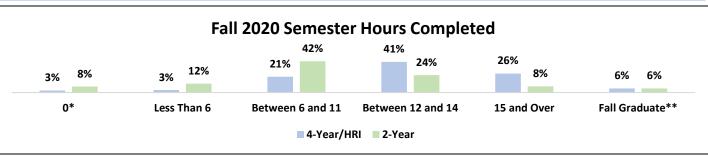
	Average Fall 2020 SCH Completed	Average Spring 2021 SCH Registered
4-Year/HRI	12	11
2-Year	9	7

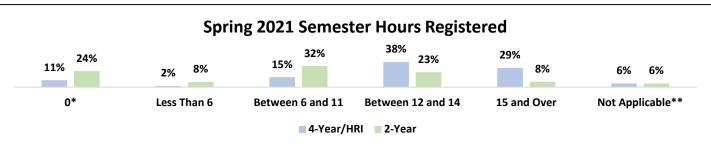
Fall 2020 Semester Credit Hours Completed

	4	-Year/HRI	<u>2-Year</u>		
	Recipients	% Recipients	Recipients	% Recipients	
0*	969	3%	489	8%	
Less Than 6	1,185	3%	730	12%	
Between 6 and 11	7,437	21%	2,545	42%	
Between 12 and 14	14,386	41%	1,415	24%	
15 and Over	8,945	26%	506	8%	
Fall Graduate**	1,938	6%	332	6%	
Total	34,860	100%	6,017	100%	

Spring 2021 Semester Credit Hours Registered

Spring 2021 Schiester Credit Hours Registered							
	<u>4</u> -	-Year/HRI	<u>2-Year</u>				
	Recipients % Recipients		Recipients	% Recipients			
0*	3,682	11%	1,452	24%			
Less Than 6	654	2%	476	8%			
Between 6 and 11	5,217	15%	1,917	32%			
Between 12 and 14	13,258	38%	1,358	23%			
15 and Over	10,111	29%	482	8%			
Not Applicable**	1,938	6%	332	6%			
Total	34,860	100%	6,017	100%			





^{*}Students who withdrew or did not pass their courses.

Note: Percentage may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Institutional EEG close out reports; Coordinating Board Management enrollment reports

^{**}Fall students enrolled in their final credits necessary to complete their degree. Spring enrollment is not applicable for these students

PRELIMINARY REPORT

HIGHER EDUCATION GEER FUNDING

n July 2020, Gov. Greg Abbott and legislative leadership directed \$175 million in federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. These funds were allocated to support Texas higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding was allocated as follows:

- \$57 million to maintain State Financial Aid Programs
- \$46.5 million for Emergency Educational Aid
- \$46.5 million for Reskilling & Upskilling Grants
- \$10 million for Online Learning Support
- \$15 million for Data Infrastructure

The Coordinating Board remains deeply appreciative to Gov. Abbott and the legislative leadership for investing in Texas higher education and working in partnership with our institutions to accelerate the Texas recovery.

STATE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

The Coordinating Board worked to distribute funding to maintain the State's student financial aid programs for public and private institutions beginning in the Fall 2020 semester. Institutions may disburse these funds across both the fall and spring semesters, and Spring 2021 disbursements have not yet occurred. To date, GEER funding has supported 17,690 Texas students across the state's public and private colleges and universities.

Financial Aid Program	% Funds Allocated	Students Served	Average Award
TEXAS Grant	48%	10,623	\$1,938
TEOG	68%	2,028	\$1,605
TEG	73%	5,039	\$1,301

EMERGENCY EDUCATIONAL AID

During the fall 2020 semester, 93 public institutions of higher education used GEER funds to provide Emergency Educational Grants to 40,646 students. Eighty-five percent of these funds were distributed to Texas public universities and health related institutions.

The distribution of the Emergency Educational Grants was similar in demographic breakdown to the gender, race, and ethnicity chracteristics of the overall higher education enrollment in Texas.

Emergency Educational Aid - Amount of Award



RESKILLING AND UPSKILLING GRANTS

In December 2020, the Coordinating Board announced the award of the first round of grants for the Texas Reskilling Support Fund Grant Program, totaling \$18.1 million, serving an estimated 11,975 students. More than 58% of funding goes to Texas public 2-year institutions. A second round of grants will be awarded in Spring 2021.





ONLINE LEARNING SUPPORT

In order to support the Open Educational Resources (OER) Course Development and Implementation Grant Program, the Coordinating Board awarded \$812,000 in technical assistance grants to help support applicants and awardees.

Institution	Award Amount
Rice University Open Stax	\$312,000
UT Austin Charles A. Dana Center	\$250,000
Dallas College	\$250,000

Texas State University received the first OER Course Development and Implementation Grant for \$5,000 to pilot a program that will ultimately serve 700 students per term. The Coordinating Board has received 21 applications for its second round of grant applications, and award announcements should be made in early 2021.

FAAC Data Collection Sub-Committee Meeting

Feb. 25, 2021

9:30-11:30am

Attendees: FAAC Data Sub-Committee Members and THECB staff

Update on FY 2021 FAD cycles	Virtual Meeting
This topic will discuss the new format of the Reconciliation report to include GEER funds	Meeting
Update: Due to the winter storm, the FAD cycle will be open on Monday, Mar. 1. The reconciliation report will be included in all three cycles. The following changes have been made:	
Breakout between state appropriated and GEER funds	
 Warning alert for student and dollar amounts that do not align with THECB's budget 	
 Reconciliation for all state and GEER funded programs will be done during cycle 3. 	
Committee Feedback: No feedback	
Discussion Topic: FY 2022 FAD Instruction Manual	Virtual
This topic will discuss what minimal changes are needed to the instruction manual including the cycle dates. • Update annual award amounts	Meeting
Remove CARES/GEER alert	
 Remove the notes on the three state grant data elements Proposed Cycle Dates: 	
Cycle One: Feb. 21, 2022 through April 22, 2022	
Cycle Two: June 20, 2022 through Aug. 26, 2022	
Cycle Three: Oct. 3, 2022 through Dec. 16, 2022	
Committee Feedback: The committee approved the cycle dates.	
 Will request feedback to see if the committee members staff have additional feedback. 	
Discussion Topic: FY 2022 Program Guidelines	Virtual
This topic will discuss the minimal changes as well as request feedback from the committee on how to improve the guidelines.	Meeting
Potential changes include:	

- Removal of all "New" and "Updated" reference made last year.
- Update of Annual award amounts and priority EFC for TEXAS Grant and TEOG
- Include any new "additional information"
- Disclaimer on the first page
 - "Program rules and statutes may periodically change. Reference links are confirmed as of the publishing date."
- Links to relevant rules in the headers
- FAQ appendix
- FAQ icon throughout the document linking to the FAQ appendix

Committee Feedback: Will request feedback to see if the committee members staff have additional feedback.

Discussion Topic: SFAP Updates

This topic will discuss any updates within the Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP) division.

As an agency we are continuing to be a part of the Legislative session along with several other initiatives such as:

- Firming up our refinement of the 60x30TX goals
- Modernizing our data infrastructure
- Redesigning our agency website
- Specifically for the Office of Student Financial Aid:

2021-22 Award Amounts – FAS released the semester award maximum amounts for 2021-22 for the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant and the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) and the annual Priority Expected Family Calculation (EFC) amount. The calculated priority EFC for 2021-2022 is \$6,234. TEG award amounts will be released by mid-March.

Loan Delinquency Reporting – A notice was sent to institutions to announce that beginning January 2021, the THECB reinstated the Cumulative Loan Delinquency Report file. The downloadable file will list students who are currently more than 90-days delinquent on any state loan issued by the institution. The report can be used by institutions to help counsel students to reduce the likelihood of default and to avoid restrictions from borrowing future state loan funding. As a reminder, participating institutions should NOT be placing students on an Academic Hold related to a THECB delinquency. This practice was discontinued on Nov. 1, 2019 (see memo THECB Academic Holds for Delinquent Loan Borrowers Discontinued Memo).

FAFSA Simplification- The Office of Student Financial Aid is looking into the impacts of the FAFSA Simplification and state financial aid. Some of our urgent focus is:

Virtual Meeting

- Selective Service and Drug Conviction Penalty (timing of legislative session)
 - Misalignment of state and federal aid eligibility
- On-line TASFA (timing of launch)
 - All FASFA income will come from IRS data retrieval; impacts TASFA design
- Net Price Calculator (timing of our planned improvements)
 - How will the structure of federal NPC requirements change (underlying tables; Pell calculation; COA terminology and regulation, etc.)
- EFC Name Change (impact on validity of statutory references)
- Pell for incarcerated students (listed as urgent since there is a bill to expand certificate and degree programs available to incarcerated students, and we need to figure out if these students are eligible for state aid)
- FAD

Phone Line: TFAIC Hotline is available for students and families that have questions related to state financial aid.

Memos

- Recently Released
 - Memo: 2021 Summer Awarding Texas College Work-Study (TCWS)
 Program 2/8/2021
 - The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is granted permission to institutions participating in the Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) program to use available funding for 2021 summer awards which must expended by Aug. 31, 2021. As a result, institutions will not be required to return TCWS funds by the required Feb. 20, 2021 deadline if these funds can be utilized for summer state work-study
 - Note: If there is a request for a transfer of TCWS/WSMP money into their grant program, the institutions have until 7/1/2021 to send a request which will need to be done by sending a CRAFT.
 - Memo: FY 2022 State Financial Aid Programs Opt-in/Out Survey: 2/11/2021
 - Deadline is Mar. 12
 - Memo: FY 2022 Good Neighbor Recommendation Portal is open: 2/23/2021
 - Deadline is Mar. 15
- Upcoming Memos
 - Memo: Update on Net Price Calculator Tool: week of 3/8/2021

Additional Instructions:

Schedule next committee dates for 2021:

• April, July, and November

Committee Feedback: Following dates for 2021 meeting from 9:30am-11:30am

April 22

July 22

Nov. 11

AGENDA ITEM 8



Board of Directors 2020-2021

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Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

March 1, 2021

TASFAA Recommendations to FAAC

The TASFAA Board would like to present the following topics to be considered by FAAC:

- 1. Considering the changes coming to the future FAFSA, including removal of requirements for Selective Service enrollment and Drug Convictions, we would like the State of Texas to consider removing these requirements to students applying for state aid.
- In addition, we want to confirm the state is prepared to handle the change from EFC to SAI and especially negative SAI in relation to grant requirements.
- 2. With the "Annual Loan Acknowledgement" requirement on the horizon and schools being asked to ensure students confirm their federal loan debt each year, we would like to recommend the State (THECB) take on the responsibility for confirming state and private debt for students. We realize this may take time to build, but would ask in the meantime if federal aid can be removed from the Debt letter, since it is already being confirmed annually.
- 3. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements are often difficult for students to understand, especially for students who are already struggling academically. When state and federal SAP requirements are not calculated the same, are not reviewed in the same time frame, and do not have the same warning/suspension process, it can disrupt a student's ability to progress towards their degree. This leads them to lose aid at different times and for different reasons. We would like to ask that state aid SAP policies be brought in line with federal policies or be handed over to schools to determine so they can align policies (federal, state, and institutional) in order to make counseling students towards completion of a degree more succinct.



Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC) Nomination Process

FAAC Authority and Purpose (TAC, 1.149)

Authority: Statutory authority for this subchapter is provided in the Texas Education Code, §61.0776, and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 2110, §2110.0012

Purposes: The Financial Aid Advisory Committee is created to provide the Board with advice and recommendations regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of state financial aid programs for college students. In this capacity, it is also to assist staff in the development of training materials for use by the Center for Financial Aid Information and others in informing students, parents, secondary education counselors, college personnel, members of appropriate community-based organizations, and others about financial aid opportunities for Texas students, including eligibility requirements and procedures for applying for financial aid. In addition, the committee shall provide insight on state financial aid program policies and procedures (e.g. eligibility, allocations, disbursement processes, etc.); review the collection, use, and reporting of data; and identify areas of research for consideration.

Committee Membership Breakdown (TAC, 1.151)

Membership on the committee will include:

- At least two representatives from the following sectors of higher education: four-year public universities, two-year colleges, and private institutions; and at least one representative from a healthrelated institution;
- At least one student representative from a health-related institution or the four-year college sector; and at least one student representative from the two-year college sector, who serve as non-voting members;
- Two representatives of school districts; and
- One representative from the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA), named by the TASFAA Board, who serves as a non-voting member.

Membership Overview

- Membership consists of financial aid practitioners, public school counselors, and other persons
 employed in the non-profit sector in roles with responsibility for advising students regarding
 financial aid.
- Interested persons and legislative and governmental relations staff must be regularly advised of committee meetings.
- The number of committee members cannot exceed twenty-four (24).
- Members serve a three-year term
- Terms for persons who serve as vice chair and chair of the committee will include the year as vice chair, the year as chair, and the subsequent year as immediate-past chair, regardless of the number of years previously on the committee; and
- Student members serve two-vear terms.
- The TASFAA representative serves a one-year term.
- Note: Persons who have previously served on the committee are eligible to serve again.

Nomination Timeline

- New member nomination process launches → April
 - Announcement sent to Presidents and Chancellors of Texas public and independent institutions of higher Education. Copy of announcement sent to:
 - FAAC Members
 - GovDelivery financial aid interest topic
 - GovDelivery "FAAC Partner Agencies and professional Associations" topic
 - TASFAA listserv
 - Announcement sent to the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, the Texas Association of School Administrators, and agency lists of school district staff.
 - Nominations must come from individuals who can authorize the nominee's time away from the office and expenses incurred.
- New member nominations deadline → May
- Slate of nominees finalized → August
 - A proposed slate of nominees is developed, considering multiple factors to ensure broad participation
 - TAC requirements
 - Geographic representation
 - Sector representation
 - System representation
 - Size of institution
 - Prior participation
 - TASFAA Board membership
 - Slate reviewed by FAAC Chairs and agency staff
 - Slate notified to confirm their continued interest
 - o Other nominees notified that they were not selected for the slate
- Slate of nominees reviewed at the FAAC meeting → September
- Slate of nominees presented for approval at the Board meetings → October
 - Slate notified of their full approval
- First meeting for new members → December

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE: As in effect on 02/05/2021. **TITLE 19 EDUCATION**

PART 1 TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

CHAPTER 1 AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

SUBCHAPTER J FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

§1.149 Authority and Specific Purposes of the Financial Aid Advisory Committee

- (a) Authority. Statutory authority for this subchapter is provided in the Texas Education Code, §61.0776, and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 2110, §2110.0012.
- (b) Purposes.
 - (1) The Financial Aid Advisory Committee is created to provide the Board with advice and recommendations regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of state financial aid programs for college students. In this capacity, it is also to assist staff in the development of training materials for use by the Center for Financial Aid Information and others in informing students, parents, secondary education counselors, college personnel, members of appropriate community-based organizations, and others about financial aid opportunities for Texas students, including eligibility requirements and procedures for applying for financial aid.
 - (2) In addition, the committee shall provide insight on state financial aid program policies and procedures (e.g. eligibility, allocations, disbursement processes, etc); review the collection, use, and reporting of data; and identify areas of research for consideration.

§1.150 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings:

- (1) Board--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- (2) Center for Financial Aid Information--The state's entity for developing and disseminating information about financial aid for college, consisting of the Texas Financial Aid Information Center call center, and the College for All Texans website.
- (3) Interested persons--Persons who attend committee meetings as representatives of stakeholder entities and any other persons who have made their interest in the work of the committee known to its presiding officer. Such interested persons may participate in committee discussions, as invited by the presiding officer to do so, but do not have the authority to cast votes.

§1.151 Committee Membership and Officers

(a) Membership shall consist of financial aid practitioners, public school counselors, and other persons

employed in the non-profit sector in roles with responsibility for advising students regarding financial aid.

- (b) Membership on the committee will include:
 - (1) at least two representatives from the following sectors of higher education: four-year public universities, two-year colleges, and private institutions; and at least one representative from a health-related institution;
 - (2) at least one student representative from a <u>public institution of higher education health-related</u> institution or the four-year college sector; and at least one student representative from the two-year college sector, who serves as non-voting members;
 - (3) two representatives of school districts; and
 - (4) one representative from the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA), named by the TASFAA Board, who serves as a non-voting member.
- (c) Interested persons and legislative and governmental relations staff shall be regularly advised of committee meetings.
- (d) The number of committee members shall not exceed twenty-four (24).
- (e) Members of the committee shall select:
 - (1) the presiding officer, who will be responsible for conducting meetings and conveying committee recommendations to the Board, and who will be selected from the financial aid practitioners serving on the committee; and
 - (2) the vice chair, who will succeed the presiding officer at the end of the presiding officer's year of service, and who will be selected from the financial aid practitioners serving on the committee.
- (f) The transition of leadership to the new presiding officer will occur at the end of the first committee meeting of each state fiscal year. The new presiding officer's term will begin with the second committee meeting of each year, as will each year of committee members' terms. If the chair steps down with more than half his or her term remaining, the vice chair will become chair with the option to complete the previous chair's term and his or her own term or choose to only complete the previous chair's term. If the vice chair's decision is to only complete the previous chair's term, the committee shall immediately elect a new vice chair. If less than half the chair's term remains when the chair steps down, the vice chair will complete both terms.
- (g) Members shall serve for a term of three years, except that, regardless of the number of years previously on the committee, terms for persons who serve as chair of the committee will include the year as chair and the subsequent year as immediate-past chair; and the terms of persons who serve as vice chair will include the year as vice chair, the subsequent year as chair, and a following year as

immediate-past chair of the committee. Student members of the committee will serve two-year terms. The TASFAA representative will serve a one-year term. Persons who have previously served on the committee are eligible to serve again.

§1.152 Duration

The committee shall be abolished no later than October 31, <u>2025</u> 2021, in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 2110. It may be reestablished by the Board.

§1.153 Meetings

The committee shall meet on a quarterly basis. Special meetings may be called as deemed appropriate by the presiding officer. Meetings shall be open to the public and broadcast via the web, unless prevented by technical difficulties. Minutes shall be available to the public after they have been prepared by the Board staff and reviewed by members of the committee.

§1.154 Tasks Assigned the Committee

- (a) Tasks assigned the committee include providing the agency with guidance and advice to:
 - (1) develop a comprehensive financial aid training program for public school counselors, employees of student financial aid offices of public institutions and private or independent institutions of higher education, members of appropriate community-based organizations, and other appropriate persons;
 - (2) teach methods to enable persons receiving training to effectively communicate financial aid information to students, parents and others;
 - (3) support and promote the dissemination of financial aid information, including eligibility requirements and procedures for applying for financial aid, to students, parents and others; and
 - (4) publicize training and make it easily available to public school counselors and other appropriate persons across the state.
- (b) Other tasks to be addressed include:
 - (1) evaluate and make recommendations regarding means for improving state financial aid programs;
 - (2) review and make recommendations regarding program rules and administrative materials to assure procedures are effective and efficient;
 - (3) review the collection, use, and reporting of financial aid data; and
 - (4) identify areas of research for consideration.

§1.155 Report to the Board; Evaluation of Committee Costs and Effectiveness

The committee chairperson shall report any recommendations to the Board on no less than an annual basis. The committee shall also report committee activities to the Board to allow the Board to properly evaluate the committee's work, usefulness, and the costs related to the committee's existence. The Board shall report its evaluation to the Legislative Budget Board in its biennial Legislative Appropriations Request.

EDUCATION CODE

TITLE 3. HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBTITLE B. STATE COORDINATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

CHAPTER 61. TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD

Sec. 61.0776. CENTER FOR FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION. (a) The board, in cooperation with public and private or independent institutions of higher education, the Texas Education Agency, public school counselors, representatives of student financial aid offices of any institutions, regional education service centers, and the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, shall develop a center for financial aid information. The center shall disseminate information about financial aid opportunities and procedures, including information about different types of financial aid available, eligibility requirements, and procedures for applying for financial aid. The center shall also provide information to prospective students about the Teach for Texas grant program. The information must emphasize the importance of teaching as a profession.

- (b) To assist the board in developing information provided by the center, the board shall create and appoint an advisory committee that consists of experts in financial aid administration, public school counselors, and other persons who can provide insight into the informational needs of students.
- (c) The board may designate an institution of higher education or other entity with appropriate facilities and resources to operate or house the center. If the board designates a public nonprofit entity created by the legislature to operate or house the center, the board may reimburse the entity from money appropriated for that purpose for the costs incurred by the entity in carrying out the activities of the center under this section.

- (d) The center shall maintain a toll-free telephone line that is staffed by persons knowledgeable about financial aid information in this state.
- (e) The center shall, based on the advisory committee's recommendations, publish information concerning financial aid opportunities in this state and shall:
- (1) furnish a written copy of the information to each middle school, junior high school, and high school counselor in this state; and
- (2) post the information on an Internet website accessible to the public.
- (f) The board, in cooperation with the entities specified by Subsection (a) and the advisory committee established by Subsection (b), shall develop a comprehensive financial aid training program for public school counselors, employees of student financial aid offices of public and private or independent institutions of higher education, members of appropriate community-based organizations, and other appropriate persons. The board may adopt rules as necessary to administer the training program. The board shall design the training program to:
- (1) use the information required by Subsection (e) and any other information necessary to carry out this subdivision:
- (A) to inform persons receiving the training concerning:
- (i) the opportunities available to students for obtaining financial aid, including eligibility requirements; and
- (ii) the procedures for obtaining financial aid;
- (B) to provide sufficient and accessible detail to enable the persons receiving the training to provide timely and consistent answers to the questions of students and their parents, conservators, or guardians concerning the opportunities and procedures;
- (2) teach methods to enable the persons receiving the training to effectively communicate financial aid information to students and their parents, conservators, or guardians;

- (3) support and promote the dissemination of financial aid information to students and their parents, conservators, or guardians throughout local areas; and
- (4) publicize the training and make the training easily available to public school counselors and other appropriate persons throughout this state.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1590, Sec. 5, eff. June 19, 1999. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1261, Sec. 2, eff. June 15, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1181 (S.B. $\underline{1227}$), Sec. 48, eff. September 1, 2005.

Update: Office of SFAP

Rules Activity

The following rule related to financial aid was **adopted** since the December 10, 2020, FAAC meeting:

Chapter 22. Student Financial Aid Programs Subchapter A. General Provisions Section(s): 22.1 (Amendment)

Texas Register Publication Date: February 12, 2021 Effective date: March 4, 2021

No **proposed rules** related to financial aid have been published in the *Texas Register* since the last FAAC meeting.

Announcements

- Memo: Summer Work-Study (released 2/8)
 - Permission has been granted to institutions participating in the Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) program to use available FY21 funding for 2021 summer awards which must expended by Aug. 31, 2021. As a result, institutions are not required to return TCWS funds by the required Feb. 20, 2021 deadline if these funds can be utilized for summer state work-study
- Memo: FY 2021 FAD Cycle One (will release on 2/24).
 - This announcement will inform institutions that FY 2021 FAD cycle one is open for institutions to submit files. The deadline to validate cycle one is April 23.
- Memo: Net Price Calculator (will release on 2/25).
 - The announcement will include the interim plan for the Net Price Calculator. The approach will require institutions to use the Dept of ED's NPC tool to generate an executable file for their version of the NPC to host on the THECB's NPC webpage. Institutions would supply the file to the agency via MoveIt. The agency will house all the files in a manner that allows a student to come to the statewide NPC website to select an institution and get the NPC detail.

Deadlines

- FY 2022 State Financial Aid Opt-in/Out surveys are due by Mar. 12 to participate in the allocation process for Ed Aide, TCWS, and WSMP.
- FY 2022 Good Neighbor Recommendation forms are due by Mar. 15.

Additional Items of Interest

- Delinquency file for institutions was completed December 31, 2020, with the first set of files uploaded to MoveIt on January 5, 2021. Notice was sent to schools on January 14. This file provides institutions with a delinquent borrower file should they wish to use it to counsel students.
- Over 40,000 IRS tax statements were generated and mailed to borrowers on January 25, 2021. This included statements for borrowers who paid interest in 2020 as well as BOT loans forgiven in 2020.
- The annual nomination process for Texas Armed Services Scholarships is anticipated to open on/around April 15.