Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC)

Date of Meeting: December 7, 2023

Time of Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Location: Virtual Meeting



AGENDA

12-7-2023

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting Etiquette Melet Leafgreen, Chair
- 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2023, FAAC meeting Melet Leafgreen, Chair
- 3. Update: Prior FAAC Business Leah Smalley, Senior Policy Director, THECB Discuss March Meeting Date
- 4. Update: External Relations John Wyatt, Senior Director, THECB
- 5. Presentation: Proposed Rules for January 2024 Board Meeting Charles Contéro-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
- 6. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee –DeChà Reid, Director III, THECB
- 7. Discussion Topic: Selection of Subcommittee Chair for Data Collection Subcommittee Melet Leafgreen, Chair
- 8. Update: Legislative Subcommittee Scott Lapinski, Legislative Subcommittee Chair
- 9. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA) –Denise Welch, TASFAA President
- 10. Update: TASFA Subcommittee Heather Fountain, TASFA Subcommittee Chair and Leah Smalley, Senior Policy Director, THECB
- 11. Presentation: TASFA Demonstration Leah Smalley, Senior Policy Director, THECB
- 12. Update: High School District Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD, and Erica Ramos, Pharr-San Juan -Alamo ISD
- 13. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs DeChà Reid, Director III, THECB and Leah Smalley, Senior Policy Director, THECB
- 14. Presentation: Hanging on Through the Turbulence: How to Navigate Around Work Burnout with Self Care- Teresa Washburn, Financial Aid Customer Service Coordinator, Northeast College, Houston Community College, and Sophia McGee, Manager Financial Aid Services, San Jacinto College

Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC)

- 15. Presentation: 2023 FAAC Annual Report- Melet Leafgreen, Chair
- 16. Feedback for Future Meetings Melet Leafgreen, Chair
- 17. Adjournment Melet Leafgreen, Chair

Financial Aid Advisory Committee September 14, 2023, Meeting Notes (To be approved at the December 7, 2023, meeting)

(In-Person)	Committee Members in Attendance (Virtual)	Committee Members Absent
Melet Leafgreen, Chair	Jackie Adler	Sal Ramirez
Rachelè Garrett, Past Chair	Cecelia Jones	Lynda McKendree
DeChá Reid, THECB Rep	Lisa Ann Schoenbrun	Dede Gonzales
Amy Wilson	Gilbert Zavala	
Scott Lapinski	Tevian Sides	
Rachel Joseph	Gaby Leon	
Jackie Kelly	Erica Ramos	
Heather Fountain	Leah Smalley, THECB Rep	
Michelle Hill	Rebeca Moreno Adorno	
Tonya Richardson Dean	Mary Escobar	
Beth Tolan		
Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting Handout Provided: No		Melet Leafgreen, Chair Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approval	of Minutes from the meeting held on June 1, 2023	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
	Handout Provided: Yes	
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required Yes – minutes approved
Handout Provided: Yes Summary: • No corrections were identified. **See handout for agenda item 2	for more information.	
Summary: • No corrections were identified.		

No orient

No prior business

Agenda Item 4. Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, External Relations, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- The Senate is sitting on the Board of Impeachment
- The Governor will call for a special session in October based on items that he would like resolved
- Currently in the ADA Interim during the session, the Ltd. Governor and Speaker of the house took a look at specific charges to committees to look at for the next session. Committees will hold hearings over the issues for the next session; The THECB is heavily involved in providing data to the committees but will inform FAAC about
- After each session there is a link about the session and all the bills passed <u>Summary of Higher Education Legislation (texas.gov)</u>

Agenda Item 5. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

No updates on strategic priority at this time

Agenda Item 6. Update: TASFA Subcommittee House Bill 3 (FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement) and House Bill 2140 (Online TASFA)	Claudette Jenks, Director, Strategic Advising and Leah Smalley, Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

• Launched the 2023-24 Online TASFA

Financial Aid Advisory Committee September 14, 2023, Meeting Notes

- Have about 576 people created the account; 200 students have submitted the TASFA
- Schools need to go into MOVEit to retrieve the files to see if the students qualify for state aid
- Launch a survey on the TASFA webpage; still finalizing the survey and will send it out when it is ready
- Building an Admin portal for internal staff
- The goal is to build an external portal for staff to log into the portal to look up information on the students
- 2024-25 TASFA changes have been finalized by the agency; plan to contact the TASFA Subcommittee to make sure that there are no
 concerns with the changes
- Will send the changes to FAAC to provide any feedback before the paper TASFA is created
- The Online development is going to align with FAFSA
- Will release the paper TASFA once ED post the FAFSA; both English and Spanish
- Have identified 20 questions to eliminate but will ask a few questions that will still be helpful to the schools
 - o Do not plan to remove the housing status
 - o Selective Service has not gone away for the state aid so that will stay
 - Minimal movement of the questions in the paper
- Plan to release the draft TASFA to schools in advance and launch the final version to the public when ED launches the FAFSA

Agenda Item 7. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Standing Item Update Summary: **See handout for agenda item 7 for more information	
Agenda Item 8. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Melet Leafgreen, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Standing Item Update Summary: No updates at this fime	
Agenda Item 9. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)	Denise Welch, TASFAA President-Elect

Standing Item

Update Summary:

Handout Provided: No

- TASFAA/SWASFAA Conference is a joint conference from 10/4-10/6 in DFW
- Action packed agenda, NASFAA Speakers; not sure about ED based on potential shut-down glooming (a recorded broadcast)
- Free conference workshop- NAOBW; Certification Exam for FAA for NASFAA Credential

Agenda Item 10. Update: High School District	Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD; Erica Ramos, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Formal Decision/Action Required

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- The high school students were focused on the Oct. 1 deadline from ED but since the changes it has impacted scholarships or SCC profiles that students cannot pay for
- There is a lot of confusion on the deadline dates for FAFSA

Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)

. Sending out a lot of communication from the high schools and the colleges to support each other with the transition of deadline date

Agenda Item 11. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Director III, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Standing Item Topics of Discussion:	

Financial Aid Advisory Committee September 14, 2023, Meeting Notes

- New Staff Hires
- 3. Released and Upcoming Announcement
- 4. Upcoming and Past Deadline Dates

Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)

- GAPP is a modernized platform that will integrate 14 out 20 of the financial aid programs which consist of grants, workstudy, loan GAPP is a modernized central platform that will integrate a variety of the financial aid programs which consist of grants, work-study, loan repayment, exemption, and scholarships.
- The system will allow institutions to approve user access, upload documents (e. g. program participation), request
 payments, monitor program spending, send communication directly to THECB staff, and submit authority to transfer
 request.
- The goal is to go live with the three Grant programs, State Work-study Programs, Educational Aide, and Bilingual Education.
- We are working on an announcement to release to schools. We have a few minor items that we are finalizing with the Grant and Aide Processing Platform (GAPP), but the goal is to get an announcement out soon. The first step once we make an announcement is to create your account as a Primary Point of Contact if you are the Financial Aid Director. If you have done so already, we can encourage everyone to review the latest webcast that we released for Aug. 24, which provides a high-level overview of GAPP and the Aug. 31, 2023, webcast that discusses the User Roles for GAPP.
- Question asked by Charles on what is the drop-dead date for not requesting funds for an institution?
 - Could there be a survey on the deadline date?
 - o Implementation Date of GAPP to send out by Monday, 9/21

Financial Aid Personnel Activity

THECB has been busy with hiring and promoting internal staff. Charles mentioned our recent reorganization; we are continuing to look
at how best to structure our area to fit the needs of our customers and the agency.

Released Announcements

- August 21, 2023 Memo: State Financial Aid Process Updates, Reminders & Resources
- August 24, 2023- Memo: Future Occupations & Reskilling Workforce Advancement to Reach Demand (FORWADR) Loan Interest Rate
 Change
- August 24, 2023- Memo: College Access Loan (CAL) Interest Rate Change
- August 29, 2023-Memo: UPDATE: State Financial Aid FY 2025 Priority Deadline
- August 31, 2023- Memo: Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program FY 2024 Participation Agreement

From https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/supporting-our-institutions/student-financial-aid-programs/stay-connected/

Upcoming Memos

- September 21, 2023 Memo: 2023-24 State Campus-Based Annual Report
- October 4, 2023- Memo: Grant and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP)
- 2023-24 User Access Annual Review
- 2023 FAD Cycle 3-Opens

Upcoming deadlines

- FAST Program Participation Agreement: 9/29
- 2023 FAD Cycle 3 opens on 9/20 and the Initial File Submission for FY23 Cycle deadline: 10/6 to 10/16
- FAST Educationally Disadvantaged Confirmation Roster: 10/15

Past Deadlines

None.

Agenda Item 12. Discussion Topic: Selection of Vice-Chair and Subcommittee Chairs	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Discussion Summary:

- This topic will discuss and vote on the next FAAC Vice-Chair and Subcommittee Chairs
 - o TASFAA Subcommittee-Heather Fountain
 - Rachele Garrett-Motion and Scott Lapinski- Second AYES win
 - Legislative Subcommittee-Scott Lapinski
 - Lisa Ann-Motion and Rachele Garrett Second AYES Win
 - o Vice-Chair FAAC-Cecilia Jones
 - Amy Wilson- Motion and Jackie Kelley Second AYES Win

Financial Aid Advisory Committee September 14, 2023, Meeting Notes

Agenda Item 13. Discussion Topic: Overview of the FAST Program	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Discussion Summary:

- This topic will discuss the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program which provides funding to participating public institutions of higher education, as defined under <u>Texas Education Code (TEC) 61.003(8)</u> so they can offer dual credit courses to educationally disadvantaged students at no cost to these students.
 - FAST Program was created by the 88th Legislature as part of the overall funding for community colleges; it is one piece of the funding for the various performance measures
 - Focused on dual credits for students as a funding resource for those students that are identified as "educationally
 disadvantaged" at no cost related to taking dual courses. The term is identified in statute based on a student that is eligible
 to participate in the FREE/Reduced Lunch Program prior to the four years that the student is taking dual credit courses.
 - Use language from the FAST Website
 - The FAST program is optional and not required since there is a financial component for the public IHE's.
 - o Ideally after each semester, an IHE will receive funding. GAPP will be the portal where funds will be requested.
 - o <u>FAST Program</u>

Agenda Item 14. Discussion Topic: Proposed Rules for Transfer Grant Program		Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No

Discussion Summary:

- This topic will discuss the proposed rules for the Transfer Grant program that will be posted to the Texas Register.
 - The agency was provided authority to create the Transfer Grant through a Rider and not a statute
 - Use funds available to create a Transfer Grant
 - o Using some of the aspects that were learned through the GEERO-funded Transfer Grant about the structure and the impact
 - Will be posting the ruled during the 10/13 Texas Register to see the proposed rules that will go to the January 2024 Board meeting
 - Will allow institutions to utilize the funding in spring 2024
 - Was not given emergency rule-making authority
 - The program is specifically for use at the 4-year public institutions and HRI's to provide an opportunity for students that completed an AAS degree to help pay for a BA degree
 - Standard eligibility requirement that are similar to other grant programs (mirror like TEXAS Grant)
 - Requires SAP based on the institution's policy
 - > Unique requirement is full-time enrollment; completed an AA degree, and at least a 2.5 GPA and the AA degree includes the core curriculum.
 - Cannot have TEXAS Grant and Transfer Grant at the same time.
 - Does provide policy priority model: continuing students first, then the priority EFC (SAI) and lastly look at the highest levels of academic achievement
 - There will be a maximum grant amount; roughly in the TEXAS Grant target grant amount
 - Allocation structure use the model of TEXAS Grant program; schools will get an allocation and award eligible students accordingly.
 - o Program will be under Chapter 22 which means that the 2024-2025 PPA will apply to the Transfer Grant
 - o Funds will be accessible within GAPP

Agenda Item 15. Feedback for Future Meetings		Melet Leafgreen, Chair
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No

Discussion Summary:

- Discussion about the 2024 FAAC Meetings
 - o 2024 FAAC Virtual meeting
 - o Dec. 7, 2023
 - o Mar. 7, 2024
 - o June 6, 2024
 - Sept. 12, 2024
 - o Dec. 5, 2024

	Agenda Item 16. Adjournment	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
ш		

Agenda Item #2, page 5Financial Aid Advisory Committee
September 14, 2023, Meeting Notes

Formal Decision/Action Required Handout Provided: No No

Summary:

- Rachele Motion to Adjourn and Scott Second
- Adjourned at 12:09 pm
- Agenda Topics and Ideas make sure to send them to Melet, Cecilia and Leah

Melet Leafgreen, Chair Reminder. Announcement: Expense Reports



Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 13

- Subchapter Q: New sections to implement the Financial Aid for Swift transfer (FAST) Program enacted September 1, 2023, through House Bill 8, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. *Published Oct. 13, 2023*.
 - o 19 TAC §§13.500 13.506

Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 21

- Subchapter D: Amendments to implement changes to the Texas First Early High School Completion Program enacted September 1, 2023, through Senate Bill 2294, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. *Published Oct. 27, 2023.*
 - 19 TAC §21.51, §22.52

Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 22

- Amendments to implement the consensus reached by the negotiated rulemaking committee on the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG), August 2, 2023.
 - o Subchapter: Amendments to modify General provision definitions. *Published Oct. 13, 2023.*
 - 19 TAC §22.1
 - Subchapter L: Conforming amendment to modify the definitions for the Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant.
 - 19 TAC §22.226
 - o Subchapter M: Amendments to implement the substantive changes to TEOG. Published Oct. 13, 2023.
 - 19 TAC §§22.254, 22.256 22.259, 22.261, 22.262, 22.264
 - Subchapter M: Amendments to implement non-substantive changes to TEOG. Published Nov. 3, 2023.
 - 19 TAC §22.265
- Subchapter K: New sections to implement the Texas Transfer Grant Program enacted September 1, 2023, through House Bill 1 (Rider 56), 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. *Published Oct. 13, 2023*.
 - o 19 TAC §§22.200 22.210
- Subchapter N: New sections to implement the Texas Leadership Scholars Program enacted September 1, 2023, through House Bill 1590, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. *Published Nov. 3, 2023.*
 - 19 TAC §§22.285 22.297
- Subchapter T: Amendments to implement Texas First Scholarship Program changes that were enacted on September 1, 2023, through Senate Bill 2294, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. *Published Oct. 27, 2023*.
 - 19 TAC §§22.550 22.552, 22.554 22.556

Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 23

- Subchapter D: Amendments to implement changes to the Mental Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program enacted by House Bill 1211, House Bill 2100, and Senate Bill 532, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. Published Oct. 27, 2023.
 - o 19 TAC §§23.93 23.101

Project Updates:

- o 2024-25 Paper and Online TASFA
- Grant and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP)

This topic will provide an update on the progress of the projects that SFAP is overseeing.

Update on 2024-25 Paper and Online TASFA:

- Released the 2024-25 Paper Draft TASFA on 11/3/2024. Did not do an overall to the design but did mimic the 2024-25 FAFSA. Did summarize the changes based on the feedback from the TASFA Sub-committee. Did not post the draft to the SFAP webpage.
- The 2024-25 paper TASFA will be released once FAFSA is released, and it will be available in English and Spanish.
- We are continuing to refine the 2024-25 Online TASFA and will be launching in early 2024.
- A major difference on the 2024-25 Online is a "FAMILY SECTION" was created on the online TASFA. It includes benefits, family household and number in college.
- Next steps are getting a preliminary copy the file layout for the Online TASFA in December.
- Will add a message on the TASFA website that the 2024-24 Online is not available and visit the webpage. Deployment of that message is set to be added by the end of the week.
- The priority deadline has shifted to March 15, 2024.

Update on GAPP

- Went live on 10/4/23. There were several webcasts on the functionality of the platform.
- GAPP is the new system where institutions can view their Allocations, Request Funds, Update Student Count, Complete the Return of Funds Form. Institutions can also view their Institutional Profile to approve/deny/assign GAPP access for their staff. THECB conducts several webcasts that outline these functions. The webcast dates were Aug 24, Aug 31, Sept.13 and Oct. 18.
- Since our go live date, Institutional Primary Points of Contacts (PPCs) have been granted access by THECB; and PPCS have been granting their staff access. There are a few institutions where the PPC has not requested access to the GAPP; and THECB will be contacting them in the upcoming days.
- Institutions have been able to submit payment requests for all the six programs in GAPP. THECB processes payment requests for TEXAS GRANT, TEOG, TEG, Education Aid Exemption, Bilingual Ed, and Texas College Work Study. All payment requests received through GAPP have been successfully processed.
- Reminder: The THECB will no longer disburse a lumpsum of the institution's
 College Work-Study allocation. Institutions must request funds throughout the
 academic year via the GAPP. Also, institutions must follow the Timely Distribution
 of Funds for Work-Study which requires institutions to disburse state student
 financial aid funding to a student recipient's account no later than three business
 days after receiving the funds.

Leah S and Tanitia C.

- Last Friday, THECB sent a Dear Colleague notification to ensure that institutions knew what to expect once a payment request has been submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, it outlined the processing schedule. The processing time FROM payment request submission TO funds being disbursed takes approximately 3 - 5 business days.
- GAPP has a HELP DESK function that institutions can use to submit inquiries; institutions can submit a question, requests assistance, report an issue with GAPP by selecting Site Bug, or select OTHER. THECB staff will respond to these Help Desk Tickets within 1 business day for general inquiries and up to 5 business days if research is required.
- All payments have been processed and "PAID" notifications should have been emailed to schools.
- A DEAR COLLEAGUE notice went out on 11/13/23 detailing the payment schedule.

Step One: Review and Approve

The THECB reviews each payment request for accuracy in order to approve
there are any discrepancies with a payment request, THECB will send an
"Action Required" notification to the submitter through GAPP informing the
to log into the portal and correct any issues.

Step Two: Process Payments

 Once a payment request is approved, a notification is sent to the submitt through GAPP labeled "Action Required" indicating that the payment requ is "Approved". There is no action required once the payment is approved This notification is typically sent to the submitter within 1-2 business day from the date of submission.

Step Three: Payment Notification

 THECB will disburse funds to the institution based on how each institution set up to receive funds. Once the payment request is in a "PAID" status, a notification is sent to the submitter to log into GAPP to review the status. This process typically takes 2-3 business days from the date of approval.

Committee Comments:

- Can notifications be provided when TASFA files are uploaded? At this time that functionality is not set up in MOVEit, however THECB is looking at ways to notify schools of a file upload.
- What type of notifications are sent out for GAPP-BO role.

Feedback on GAPP:

• It was hard through the technical part especially for the Directors

0

- There is a lot of white space, and the text is very tiny (need to improve on the visibility)
- Requesting payment: There are no dates associated with the payments. Would like the date paid on the filter. No Pin functionality.
- Need more explanation on the user roles

DeCha R. and Tanya T.

Operational Updates:

This topic will provide updates on any upcoming operational changes to process or procedures affecting state financial aid programs.

o 2022-23 FAD Cycle 3

- FADS Cycle 3 report is updated. We are now at 49% with 75 institutions still needing to certify.
- There have been some challenges with submitting FAD files through the Data Submission portal. There are a few workarounds:
 - Unreconciled programs are not coming up as "ERRORS" for cycle
 Had to decertify schools that certified with unreconciled programs
 - The Grant Payment Portal does not allow schools to update school students and return of funds. Will allow schools to certifywith issues for just the three Grant Programs (TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG). Must have resolved all other errors before
 - There is a \$100 tolerance for College Work-study and Mentorship that still needs to be programmed.
 - Unmatched SSN report will not allow for an exception code.
 These are "WARNINGS" so certification can still be done.

2023-24 FAD Dates and Updates

- FAD Cycle One is no longer required; only cycle 2 and 3.
- Proposed reporting dates for 2023-24 are listed for final approval

Revised Proposed 2023-2024 Reporting Cycle Dates

Reporting Cycle	First Day to	Deadline to Validate or	Submission Requirements
	Submit		

		Initial FAD File*	Certify FAD File	
Second	May 15, 2024	June 12, 2024	July 10, 2024	Deadline to validate student data.
Third	Sept. 18, 2024	Oct. 9, 2024	Nov. 20, 2024	Deadline to reconcile state program totals and certify student data.

- The manual is being reviewed for editing changes and will be sent to the committee to look at.
- There will be a new data element for Transfer Grant that will be added to the end of the FAD file.

o 2024-25 FAD Manual

- The manual will undergo a complete redesigned based on changes with FAFSA Simplification and Data Security.
- We are reviewing all data elements to determine if they are necessary to report on the FAD manual. Will solicit feedback from the committee. The goal is to release the manual by June 2024.

Administering Texas First and Transfer Grant

- Texas First:
 - THECB released a fact sheet on the program's administration and issued state credit certificates to students.
 - Effective 9/1 all public IHE's will be eligible to be a part of the Texas First Scholarship program.
 - We plan to provide updated guidance on the program based on the proposed rules adopted at the January Board meeting.
 - The graduation date and planning need to be added to the roster.

Transfer Grant

Transfer Grant received state appropriation during the 88th Legislative session

- Rules were drafted and sent to the Texas Register for this program.
- Institutions will be allocated funds to award eligible students. Funding will be requested through GAPP.
- At this current time, rosters are not being uploaded.
- More information will be made available on both programs in the coming months.

Committee Comments:

• The Data Submission portal allowed for faster processing times when a file was submitted.

Policy Updates:

Leah S.

This topic will provide updates on any upcoming policy changes affecting state financial aid programs.

A few state financial aid programs that have impacts to state financial aid programs. See handout for additional programs that had proposed rules. All proposed rules have a 30-calendar day comment period.

- Texas First-published on 10/27/2023
 - Rules have been proposed to align the description of institutions eligible to participate in the program given the recent legislative changes.
 - (1) For any student graduating through the Texas First Early High School Completion Program on or after September 1, 2023, institutions of higher education, as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003, are required to apply the state credit available to a student through the Program to the eligible student's cost of attendance, as outlined in §22.555 of this subchapter (relating to Scholarship Amount).
- (2) For any student graduating through the Texas First Early High School Completion Program before September 1, 2023, institutions of higher education, as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003), that are designated as either a public research university or public emerging research university under the coordinating board's accountability system are required to apply the state credit available to a student through the Program to the eligible student's costs of attendance, as outlined in §22.555 of this subchapter.
- §22.555.Scholarship Amount.

- (a) The scholarship is issued by the Coordinating Board as a state credit for use by an eligible student at any eligible institution.
- (1) For a student who graduated from high school two or more semesters or the equivalent earlier than the student's high school cohort, the state credit offered to the student will equal the maximum annual (two semester) TEXAS Grant award determined by the Coordinating Board [staff for the applicable academic year]. The calculation is based on TEXAS Grant value for the first academic year that begins following the student's graduation from high school.
- (2) Remaining state credit may be applied to subsequent semesters prior to the end of the first academic year that begins following the student's graduation from high school.
- §22.556.Institutional Reimbursement.
- (a) The Coordinating [Board] staff shall distribute to each eligible institution an amount of funds equal to the amount of state credit applied by the institution under §22.555 of this subchapter (relating to Scholarship Amount) during the [preceding] academic period reported under subsection (b) of this section [year].

TEOG-published on 11/3/2023

- Proposed a new rule based on consensus reached by the negotiated rulemaking committee on Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program (August 2, 2023).
 - §22.265.Disbursement of Funds to Institutions.

As requested by institutions throughout the academic year, the Board shall forward to each participating institution a portion of its allocation of funds for timely disbursement to students. Institutions will have until the close of business on August 1, or the first working day thereafter if it falls on a weekend or holiday, to encumber program funds from their allocation. After that date, institutions lose claim to any funds in the current fiscal year not yet drawn down from the Board for timely disbursement to students. Funds released in this manner in the first year of the biennium become available to the institution for use in the second year of the biennium. Funds released in this manner in the second year of the biennium become available to the Board for utilization in grant processing. Should these unspent funds result in additional funding available for the next biennium's program, revised allocations, calculated according to the allocation methodology outlined in this rule, will be issued to participating institutions during the fall semester.

Transfer Grant-published 10/13/2023

- New sections will outline the authority and purpose, definitions, institutional eligibility requirements, student eligibility requirements, satisfactory academic progress requirements, discontinuation of eligibility, hardship provisions, priorities in making grants, grant amounts, allocation of funds, and disbursement of funds, which are necessary to administer the Texas Transfer Grant Program.
 - Rule 22.200 indicates the specific sections of the Texas
 Government Code that provides the agency with authority to
 issue these rules, as well as the purpose of the Texas Transfer
 Grant Program.
- Rule 22.201 provides definitions for words and terms within the Texas Transfer Grant Program rules. The definitions provide clarity for words and terms that are integral to the understanding and administration of the rules.
- Rule 22.202 outlines the eligibility requirements that institutions must fulfill to participate in the program. The requirements are proposed to align with the Towards EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant Program, as both programs serve students in the same institutional sector.
- Rule 22.203 outlines the eligibility requirements that a student must meet to allow an institution to provide the students with a grant through the program. The proposed requirements include expectations that exist within the TEXAS Grant program, such as the requirement to be a Texas resident, to show financial need, to be enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program, to make satisfactory academic progress, and to comply with applicable Selective Service registration expectations. The proposed requirements also include expectations that are specifically targeted toward achieving the public benefit of the program, such as full-time enrollment, having completed associate degrees with at least a 2.5 grade point average at a public two-year institution to include completion of the core curriculum or an abbreviated core curriculum related to a specific approved field of study curriculum, and enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible institution within one year of ceasing to be enrolled in a two-year public institution.
- Rule 22.204 outlines the satisfactory academic progress that students must achieve to receive a grant through the program. The proposed requirement allows the participating institution to use satisfactory academic progress guidelines already in place for determining eligibility for federal financial aid programs.

- Rule 22.205 outlines the situations in which a student is not eligible to receive a grant through the program. To acknowledge the goal of assisting students in completing degrees, a student may not receive a grant after completion of a baccalaureate degree. To acknowledge the limited state resources available for financial aid programs, a student may not simultaneously receive a grant through this program and the TEXAS Grant program. To encourage timely completion of a baccalaureate degree, a student may not receive a grant after having been enrolled in the baccalaureate program for two years (three years if the degree program is more than four years), nor may the student receive the grant after attempting 135 semester credit hours.
- Rule 22.206 outlines provisions that permit an institution to develop a policy that allows an otherwise ineligible student to receive a grant through the program when unique hardships justify an exception. The provisions are proposed to align with similar provisions in the TEXAS Grant program. When justified and documented, these provisions may be used in relation to a student enrolling less than full-time, failing to meet satisfactory academic progress requirements, maintaining enrollment for more than two years (three years if the degree program is more than four years), attempting more than 135 semester credit hours, or failing to enroll in a baccalaureate program within one year of ceasing to be enrolled in a two-year public institution.
- Rule 22.207 outline priorities that institutions will use in determining how to select grant recipients when funding does not allow for all eligible recipients to receive grants through the program. Similar justifications exist in the TEXAS Grant program. Priority would first go toward prior recipients. For first-time recipients, priority would go to those who have demonstrated an expected family contribution that does not exceed the expected family contribution used for similar purposes in the TEXAS Grant program, with highest priority given to eligible students with the highest levels of academic achievement prior to transfer as determined by the participating institution.
- Rule 22.208 outlines the maximum grant amount that a participating institution may provide to an eligible student. The maximum grant amount will be aligned with the maximum grant amounts calculated for the TEXAS Grant program under §22.234 of this chapter.
- Rule 22.209 provides the allocation formula that will be used to determine the amount of funding that each participating institution will be provided for the program. The allocation formula is modeled after the criteria utilized in the allocation methodology for first-time recipients of the TEXAS Grant program. This rule is proposed based on Texas Education Code, §61.07761, which directs the Coordinating Board to establish and publish allocation methodologies and develop procedures to verify the accuracy of the calculations.

 Rule 22.210 outlines the way the Coordinating Board will use to disburse funding to participating institutions. This rule aligns with the way the Coordinating Board disburses funding for other state financial aid grant programs.

Texas Leadership-published on 11/3/2023

- Created new subchapter provides information necessary for the implementation and administration of the Program.
 - Specifically, these new sections will outline the authority and purpose, definitions, institutional eligibility requirements, student eligibility requirements, academic achievement support, leadership development opportunities, hardship provisions, scholarship amounts, allocation, and disbursement of funds, which are necessary to administer the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.
- Rule 22.285 indicates the specific sections of the TEC that provide the agency with authority to issue these rules, as well as the purpose of the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.
- Rule 22.286 provides definitions for words and terms within Texas Leadership Scholars rules. The definitions provide clarity for words and terms that are integral to the understanding and administration of the Texas Leadership Scholars rules.
- Rule 22.287 outlines the requirements institutions must fulfill to participate in the Texas Leadership Scholars program. The requirements are proposed to: (a) clarify the type of institution eligible to participate, and (b) provide rules specific to requirements the Coordinating Board is proposing to ensure effective administration of the Texas Leadership Scholars Program, such as the requirement that each participating institution enter into an agreement with the Coordinating Board. This section is proposed based on TEC, Section 61.897, which directs the Coordinating Board to adopt rules as necessary to implement the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.
- Rule 22.288 outlines the eligibility requirements students must meet to allow an institution to select a student as a scholar under the Texas Leadership Scholars Program. The requirements are proposed to: (a) gather in one place the statutory requirements for the Texas Leadership Scholars Program, including the requirements related to a student's financial need; (b) clarify aspects of the statutory requirements, including the requirements related to the student graduating with a distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation School Program, and qualified either for automatic admission, be nominated, or graduate with a Texas First Diploma; and (c) clarify aspects of the statutory requirements

related to student's eligibility to continue in the program, such as making satisfactory academic progress and participation in programmatic requirements. This section is proposed based on TEC, Section 61.897, which directs the Coordinating Board to adopt rules as necessary to implement the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.

- Rule 22.289 outlines the satisfactory academic progress requirements related to a student's eligibility to continue in the program. This section is proposed based on TEC, Section 61.897, which directs the Coordinating Board to adopt rules as necessary to implement the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.
- Rule 22.290 outlines the guidelines for scholars to transfer to another eligible institution. The requirements are proposed to: (a) clarify that scholars are eligible to transfer once during the student's eligibility period; and (b) clarify that the Coordinating Board will make sure that the scholar will receive the scholarship funds during their eligibility period. This section is proposed based on TEC, Section 61.897, which directs the Coordinating Board to adopt rules as necessary to implement the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.
- Rule 22.291 outlines the process and the criteria in which institutions will select students to receive the Texas Leadership Scholars scholarship. The requirements are proposed to: (a) clarify that students will indicate interest through an application; and (b) that institutions will make selections based on a student's eligibility, evidence of leadership, service, and academic achievement. This section is proposed based on TEC, Section 61.897, which directs the Coordinating Board to adopt rules as necessary to implement the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.
- Rules 22.292 and 22.293 outline the requirements that institutions must fulfill to provide programmatic experiences for scholars in the program. The requirements are proposed to: (a) clarify the types of academic achievement and leadership development programmatic elements institutions must provide for scholars; and (b) clarify if the institution is unable to provide the listed programmatic elements, the process for approval for alternative programming. This section is proposed based on TEC, Section 61.897, which directs the Coordinating Board to adopt rules as necessary to implement the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.
- Rule 22.294 outlines the requirements that institutions must follow to determine when scholars are no longer eligible to participate in the Texas Leadership Scholars Program. The requirements are proposed to: (a) gather in one place the statutory requirements for the Texas Leadership Scholars Program, including the requirements related to a student's enrollment and the transfer policy; and (b) clarify the aspects of the statutory requirements, such as the student being enrolled in a baccalaureate degree and receiving the scholarship for no more than four years.

- Rule 22.295 outlines the criteria for an institution to allow an eligible scholar a hardship provision under the Texas Leadership Scholars Program. This section provides institutions with the provisions for hardship consideration and defines the conditions the hardship may include such as severe illness. This section outlines the process in which the institution must document the circumstances of the hardship.
- Rule 22.296 outlines the scholarship amounts and how the Coordinating Board will allocate the funds to institutions. The proposed rule provides the process in which the number of initial scholarships is determined, the number of scholarships for returning scholars, and the annual allocation formula for each institution.
- Rule 22.297 establishes the mechanisms by which the Coordinating Board will disburse the funds to each participating institutions to support their participation in the Texas Leadership Scholars Program, as well as the institutions' participation in the process. The proposed rule provides the frequency of disbursements to each institution and the way the institutions will have the opportunity to review the calculation for accuracy. This section is proposed based on TEC, Section 61.897, which directs the Coordinating Board to adopt rules as necessary to implement the Texas Leadership Scholars Program.
- More Rules are coming for comment period.
 - TPEG-no longer a requirement for the program guidelines to be submitted to THECB.
 - TASSP-changed requirements for ROTC.
 - Nursing Scholarship programs-funding to help nurses pursue an education. Will have to undergo negotiated rulemaking. Will be implemented in fall 2024. This will serve all institutions of higher education, including private institutions.

Update on Office of SFAP:

DeCha R.

This topic will provide an update on the activities happening in the Office of Student Financial Aid Programs.

Topics of Discussion:

- 2024-25 Program Guidelines
 - 2024-25 Program Guidelines are under review for all state financial aid programs, including exemptions and waivers.
 - The goal is to release the guidelines in April 2024.
- Update on Personnel Activity: We have been busy hiring and promoting internal staff. To date, we have had one new hire and one promotion.

- Cindy Marrs was promoted in October to be the new Director of Loan Repayment Programs.
- Jeremiah Jarrell is our new Deputy Assistant Commissioner that started Aug. 1. This is a new position based on the organizational changes of SFAP. This position will oversee Quality Compliance, Innovation, and Data Reporting.
- SFAP has three distinct areas:
 - OPERATIONS conducts the business of SFAP, the output being the reason the SFAP division exists. Operations does this through implementing, enacting, managing, and maintaining financial aid programs. DeCha Reid oversees this area as Senior Director III.
 - POLICY provides the overarching framework within which SFAP conducts its business. Policy does this by designing policies for practice and creating and evolving rules. Leah Smalley oversees this area as the Senior Policy Director.
 - INNOVATION provides divisional support for SFAP to operate efficiently and effectively. Innovation does this through analyzing, formulating, building, and constructing support systems, products, and tools to support SFAP's business. Jeremiah Jarrell oversees this area as Deputy Assistant Commissioner.
- Recently Released Memos:
- 10/30/23 Resident Tuition and Fees Data: Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) Program Memo [PDF]
- 10/17/23 Bilingual Education Program FY 2023 EOY Report Memo [PDF]
- 10/13/23 FY 2024 User Access Annual Review Memo [PDF]
- 10/04/23 The Grant and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP) is LIVE! Memo [PDF]
- o 09/25/23 ALERT: Award History Tool Memo [PDF]

For more announcements visit: SFAP-Stay Connected

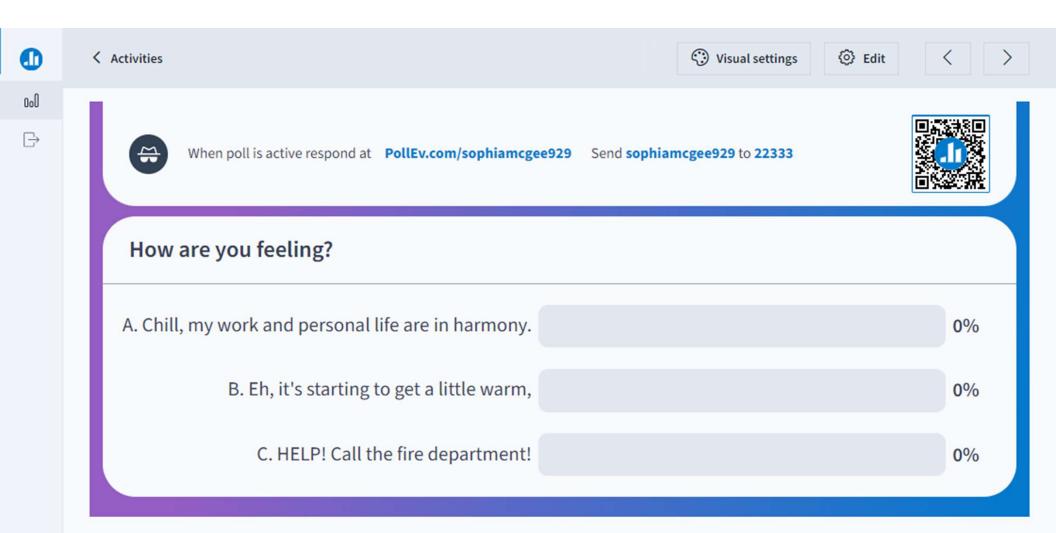
- Upcoming Memos
 - Spring 2024 Institutional Calendar
 - o Title III Eligibility Letter
- Upcoming deadlines:
 - Deadline to submit feedback on the 2024-25 TASFA-11/17/2023
- Past Deadlines

0			
	User Access Annual Review-due 11/10/2023		
0	Certify FAD Cycle 3-11/13/2023		
0	FY 2023 Bilingual Education End of Year report-11/13/2023		
Committee Co	mments:		
o None			
Discussion Topic: Webcast and Training			
This topic will webcasts and	gather feedback from the committee to collect ideas to cover for future trainings.	ee	
Committee Co	mments:		
o Will pa	ass along information to other staff members on needed training ideas.		
Discussion Topic: Future Topics			
This topic will meetings.	engage the committee in discussion on what topics to cover for future		
o 2024 [Data Collection Sub-Committee Dates		
0	2/22/2024		
	4/25/2024		
0			
0	7/25/2024		
	7/25/2024 11/14/2024		
0			
0	11/14/2024		



HOW TO NAVIGATE AROUND WORK BURNOUT

Teresa Washburn Financial Aid Coordinator, Houston Community College Sophia McGee Manager of Financial Aid Services, San Jacinto College



What is Burnout, & what are the causes?

Lack of control

Unclear job expectations

Dysfunctional workplace dynamics

Unmanageable workloads

Confusing work responsibilities

Deadline pressure

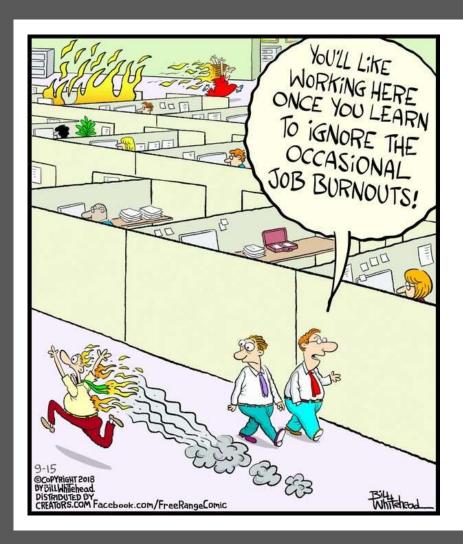
And much more...











What are some signs and symptoms?

- No enthusiasm, and feelings of negativity towards your job
- Inability to perform your job
- Feeling tired or exhausted
- Hard to concentrate
- Frustration and cynicism toward work and colleagues
- May start distancing yourself emotionally
- Reduced performance
- Quitting



Overload



Under-Challenged



Neglect



DO YOU DRAG YOURSELF TO WORK AND HAVE TROUBLE GETTING STARTED?



HAVE YOU BECOME IRRITABLE OR IMPATIENT WITH CO-WORKERS, CUSTOMERS OR CLIENTS?



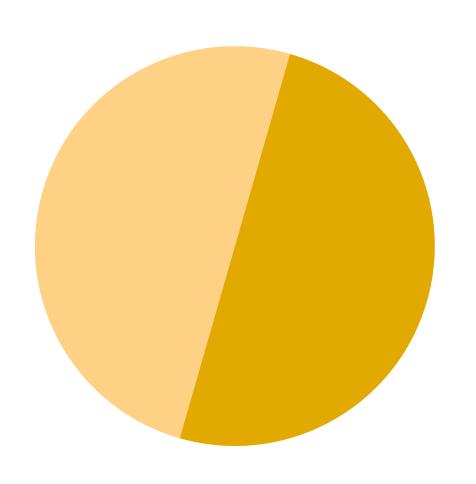
DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO STAY PRODUCTIVE AND FOCUS ON YOUR JOB?



DO YOU NOT CARE ABOUT THE QUALITY OF YOUR WORK PERFORMANCE ANYMORE?

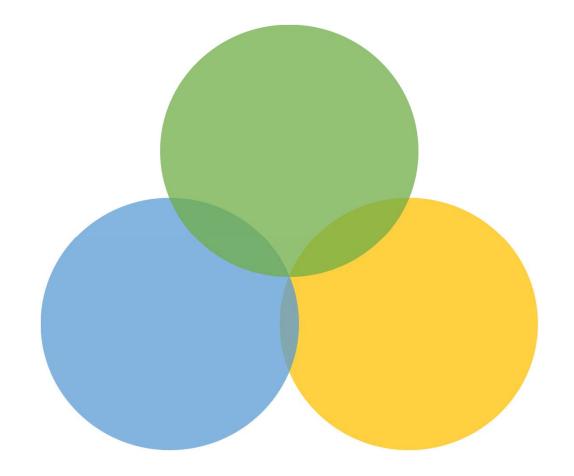


DO YOU LACK SATISFACTION FROM YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS?



Balance.

Integration.









I FINALLY FIGURED
OUT THE WHOLE
"WORK-LIFE BALANCE"
THING.



Be realistic with your daily goals & Prioritize



The Art of Saying No



Exercise and meditate



Let go of perfectionism

@Work

- Set manageable goals
- Be efficient
- Communicate effectively
- Take breaks





@Home

- Unplug
- Don't overcommit
- Treat your body right
- Get support
- Prioritize self-care

Be a Change Agent



Be mindful of the example you're setting



Encourage restorative time



Support occupational well-being



Take breaks



Resources & Good Reads

- Your institutional Employee Assistance Plan (EAP)
- The Art of Saying No, by Damon Zahariades
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, by Steven Covey
- Yoga at Your Desk (10 minutes) <u>link</u>
- 3 Minute Mindfulness Meditation <u>link</u>



Teresa Washburn teresa.washburn@hccs.edu
Sophia McGee sophia.mcgee@sjcd.edu

2022-2023 FINANCIAL AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ABOLISHMENT DATE: 10/31/2025

Committee Purpose: The Financial Aid Advisory Committee was created to provide the Board advice and recommendations regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of state financial aid programs for college students. It also assists 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 (Texas Education Code Sec. 61.0776). 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 (Texas Administrative Rules governing this committee can be found by visiting FAAC Administrative Rules and Advisory Committee Administrative Rules).

Report Period: September 2022 – August 2023

Chair: Rachelè Garrett - Stephen F. Austin University

Vice-Chair: Melet Leafgreen, University of Texas-Southwestern

Past Chair: Denise Welch, Panola College

Tust Grain. Bernse Welen, Furiou Conege		
Committee Member Name	Position and Institution	Term Dates
DeChá Reid	THECB Representative	Sept. 2020-Sept. 2023
Rachele Garrett	Chair-Stephen F. Austin	Nov 2019-June 2024
Denise Welch	Past Chair- Panola College	Nov. 2018-June 2023
Melet Leafgreen	Vice-Chair, UT Southwestern	Nov. 2021-June 2024
Jackie Adler	Member, Texas Technical State College	Nov. 2021-June 2024
Gabriela "Gabby" Leon	Member, Alvin Community College	Sept. 2022- June 2025
Victoria Chen	Member, Texas Christian Univ	Nov. 2020- June 2023
Dede Gonzales	Member, Texas State University	Nov. 2020- June 2023
Bridgette Ingram	Member, Texas A & M Univ	Nov. 2020- June 2023
Cecelia Jones	Member, Jarvis Christian Univ	Nov. 2021- June 2023
Rachel Joseph	Student Member, UT Austin	Sept 2022-May 2023
Dede Gonzales	TASFAA Representative	Nov. 2022- Sept. 2023
Scott Lapinski	Member, Blinn UT-Permian Basin	Sept. 2022- June 2023
Holly Nolan	Member, UH-Clear Lake	Nov. 2020-June 2023
Shonna Norton	Member- Wichita Falls ISD	Nov. 2020- June 2023
Sal Ramirez	Member- El Paso ISD	Nov. 2021- June 2024
Thomas Ratliff	Member- Abilene Christina Univ.	Sept. 2022- June 2023
Joseph Ruiz	Member- Del Mar College	Nov. 2021- June 2024
Lynda McKendree	Member- University of St. Thomas	Sept. 2022- June 2025
Tevian Sides	Member- Western Texas College	Nov. 2021- June 2024
Lisa Schoenbrun	Member- El Paso ISD	Sept. 2022- June 2025
Gilbert Zavala	Member- Austin Chamber of Com	Nov. 2021- June 2024

Committee Meeting Dates: Meetings were held virtually and in-person at the Barbara B. Jordan Building

- 12-08-2022 (Virtually)
- 03-02-2023 (Virtually)
- 06-01-2023 (In-person)

A key item that changed was the start term for new committee members. The FAAC agreed to amend the rules for the nomination cycle to allow new members to start in September. The reporting period reflects the amended rules to better align committee members' start term with the state fiscal year (Sept. 1). Sept. 2022 was previously reported during the 2021-2022 FAAC Annual report.

Annual Costs Expended Meetings were held virtually and in-person, which led to annual expenses.

Travel: \$0

Other: N/A

Time Commitments: 437 hours

Current Recommendations to the Board:

1. Continue to work with the Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FAAC) in providing feedback and recommendations on new initiatives when there would be an implied or real impact on state financial aid program policies and procedures. This is critical to the strengthening of student participation by removing barriers and providing access to higher education.

- 2. Continue to work with FAAC in seeking feedback on how the state financial aid program rules and policies could better align with federal policies.
- 3. Continue the work of the Data Collection Subcommittee to review procedures that impact institutions, along with the collection and use of data through institutional reporting.
- 4. Continue work with TASFA Subcommittee to review and streamline the electronic and paper state application (TASFA).
- 5. Continue to create and utilize FAAC subcommittees with subject experts to identify areas of research for consideration of topics of interest.
- 6. Continue to provide information regarding proposed legislative recommendations so FAAC can provide feedback on potential impact to students in high school and postsecondary education.

Summary of Tasks Completed: Over the course of the 2022-23 year, the Coordinating Board staff worked with FAAC members to discuss topics and host presentations related to state financial aid and best practices within higher education. Highlights included:

Discussion Topics:

- NASFAA's Student Aid Index (SAI) Modeling
- 2024-25 FAFSA Delay
- State Priority Deadline for Texas
- Proposed Rules in Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 22 Impacting State Financial Aid Programs
- Overview of the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program

Presentations:

- TXWORKS and Recruiting-Vanessa Malo, Director, THECB
- State of Student Aid and Higher Education in Texas (SOSA) Jeff Webster, Director of Research and Carla Fletcher, Senior Research Analyst, Trellis
- More FAFSA Completions, with better reporting all for free-Charlie Maynard, General Manager,
 Going Merry
- Top 10 Issues Impacting Financial Aid Offices-Karen McCarthy, Vice President of Public Policy, and Federal Regulations, NASFAA
- Fall 2021 Student Financial Wellness Survey, Jeff Webster, VP, Trellis
- Diversity 101-How to address professional judgement-Danchess Ingram, Diversity Awareness Chair, Southwestern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

In addition, FAAC's subcommittees actively engaged with THECB staff on several key agency initiatives and policies to help support the advancement of the agency goals and missions. Below are some highlights from the subcommittees:

TASFA Subcommittee: The TASFA Subcommittee continued to work on the online and paper TASFA to improve the student and institutional experience in delivering information on state aid. A non-inclusive list of activities included:

- Working with financial aid and high school representatives on recommended changes for the paper and online TASFA structure
- Launching the 2023-24 Online TASFA in August 2023
- Held multiple webcast trainings to provide a preview of the online TASFA process.
- Identifying key items on the 2024-25 paper TASFA to modify, eliminate, or add to align with the 2024-25 FAFSA questions.

Data Collection Subcommittee: Data Collection Subcommittee continued to work with THECB staff on the agency initiative to improve the importing of institutional data through the Financial Aid Database (FAD) data modernization project, along with being beta testers to the new payment system called Grant and Aid Processing Payment. In addition, the committee provided guidance on the following topics:

- Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST)
- 2023-24 State Program Guidelines
- THECB Secure Systems: MOVEit
- Grant and Aid Processing Platform
- New administrative changes to the Texas College Work-study program

The members of FAAC are appreciative of the Board's approval for the continuation of the committee and offer the following examples of why the FAAC is important:

- The opportunity to share information helps both the agency and the institutions make informative decisions related to financial aid concerns and challenges in higher education.
- Provides a platform to identify key services and ways to successfully administer programs supporting Texas residents in the pursuit of higher education.
- Allows members representing all sectors to provide a perspective on ways to advance the state's mission and goals in Building a Talent Strong Texas.
- Provides opportunities to influence research and reporting that will provide relevant data to assist THECB and legislators when considering future proposals relevant to the support of higher education.

Committee Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2022, FAAC Meeting Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance Via V	irtual Meeting Connection	Committee Members Absent
Rachelè Garrett, Chair Denise Welch, Past Chair DeChá Reid, THECB Rep Jackie Adler Reginald Brazzle Dede Gonzales-TASFAA Rep Bridgette Ingram Cecelia Jones Rachel Joseph-Student Rep Melet Leafgreen Lynda McKendree	Gaby Leon Lynda McKendree Holly Nolan Shonna Norton Sal Ramirez Thomas Ratliff Joseph Ruiz Joseph Sanchez Tevian Sides Arnold Trejo	Victoria Chen Scott Lipinski Gilbert Zavala
Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Introductions	and Overview of Meeting	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required No
Summary:		
**See handout for agenda item 1 for Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approva on September 8, 2022		Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required Yes – minutes approved
• No corrections were identified. **See handout for agenda item 2 for	more information.	
Agenda Item 3. Presentation: TXWORKS		Vanessa Malo, Assistant Director, Workforce Education, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required No
Presentation Summary: **See handout for agenda item 3 f	or more information.	

Agenda Item 4. Presentation: State of Student Aid and Higher Education in Texas (SOSA)	Jeff Webster, Director of Research, and Carla Fletcher, Sr. Research Analyst, Trellis
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Presentation Summary:

**See handout for agenda item 4 for more information.

Agenda Item 5. Presentation: More FAFSA Completions, with better reporting — all for free	Charlie Maynard, General Manager, Going Merry
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Presentation Summary:

**See handout for agenda item 5 for more information.

Agenda Item 6. Presentation: Top 10 Issues Impacting Financial Aid Offices	Karen McCarthy, Vice President of Public Policy, and Federal Regulations, NASFAA
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Presentation Summary:

**See handout for agenda item 6 for more information.

Agenda Item 7. Update: Prior FAAC Business	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

 Provide an update on TXWORKS being counted as EPA for other federal programs given that it is using a needed component for eligibility.

Agenda Item 8: Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, Sr. Director, External Relations, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- 88th Legislature will convene in a little over a month.
- Governor Abbott and Dan Patrick won their re-election.
- Dave Fleming to return as Speaker.
- TX Legislature will have some familiar faces because of the election.
- New Chairman of House Committee
- Will not have a Senate of Higher Education Committee, Higher Education will be a subcommittee.
- Texas is in good financial health. There is a surplus of funds; there is not an exact dollar amount until the Comptroller releases their budget. There is a constitutional limitation on the amount that can be spent from surplus and a lot of good recommendations on how best to spend it (infrastructure, retirement system, property tax...)
- THECB submitted LAR and 153 million to support grant recipients and support the innovative federally-funded grants (Transfer Grants and Texas Scholar)
- Enact the Community College Commission need the report to send out increase in funding for TEOG to serve 70% of eligible students to align it with TEXAS Grant population; greater flexibility of serving students; new program for dual credit students and partnerships with work-based learning.
- In the pre-filing stage on bills
- The volume of higher ed bills is low at this stage.

Graduation Requirement) and House Bill 2140 (Online TASFA)

**See handout for agenda item 8 for more information.

Agenda Item 9. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Standing Item	
Update Summary:	
**See handout for agenda item 9 for more information.	
Agenda Item 10. Update: TASFA Subcommittee: House Bill 3 (FAFSA/TASFA	Bridgette Ingram, Subcommittee

Chair; Claudette Jenks, Director,

	Strategic Advising; and Leah Smalley, Assistant Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- The projected completion of the online TASFA development is currently the end of January.
- We are in the process of setting up institutions of higher education with access to download the TASFA files and the daily report from MOVEit, which will be tested with institutions in January March.
- The internal team is currently testing both the application submission process and file batch process to both IHEs and the ISDs.
- We will send an updated file layout to institutions in January to prepare for file transmission testing.
- We are working with our Marketing and Communications team to develop outreach to all institutions regarding these
 updates.
- A dedicated TASFA webpage is being built on the agency's new website.
- As we identify the question updates for the 2024-2025 FAFSA, we will be revisiting the online TASFA to include all elements institutions will need to calculate the Student Aid Index (replacing the EFC).
- We will convene the TASFA subcommittee in the early part of February to discuss revisions to the 2024-2025 application for both paper and the online version

Committee address concerns with communication of a mid-semester launch, alignment with the new FAFSA Simplification

Agenda Item 11. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

• The committee recommended staggering the FAD deadline dates for sector or volunteer for early submission.

Agenda Item 12. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Arnold Trejo, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- Working with TASFAA Committee Chair Dr. Murr on recommendations
- Communication to legislators on the priorities on the association and committee
 - Bring the state SAP policy in alignment with federal.
 - o Advocate TEOG policy in alignment with TEXAS grant (i.e., Pell Grant)
 - Eliminate the Selective Service Requirement to align with federal.

Agenda Item 13. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)	Dede Gonzales, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- Spring Regional Training has been sited: Houston, El Paso, Lubbock and Rio Grande
- Host joint SWASFAA with TASFAA
- Board meeting next week
- Will ask GoingMerry to present at February Board Meeting
- Requesting ways that TASFAA can best assist institutions

Agenda Item 14. Update: High School District	Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD; Shonna Norton, Wichita Falls ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Chandles Than	

Standing Item

Update Summary

None to report

Agenda Item 15. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Topics of Discussion:

- 1. THECB Redesigned Website
- 2. FORWARD Loan Program
- 3. Released and Upcoming Announcements
- 4. New Staff Hires

Update:

 THECB is in the process of performing a soft launch of a newly redesigned website. The color scheme and the navigation from page to page is very different. We are still working on a few areas before we have a full launch. Home - Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

- FORWARD Loan Program is a new loan program that is scheduled to launch on January 15, 2023. The Future Occupations & Reskilling Workforce Advancement to Reach Demand (FORWARD) Program provides alternative educational loans to Texas students who are unable to meet an institution's cost of attendance (COA).
 - a. Eligibility Requirements

The student must:

- Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident.
- Be registered with Selective Service or be exempt.
- Meet the satisfactory academic progress requirements set by the institution.
- Receive a favorable credit evaluation or provide a cosigner who has good credit standing and meets other requirements
- Be pursuing a High-Demand Credential
- Eligibility for the program ends two years from the start of the semester in which the student received the first loan through the Program.
- b. Additional enrollment requirements:
 - If enrolled in a degree program, must have completed at least 50% of the required coursework prior to receiving a loan through the Program.
 - If enrolled in a non-degree program, the program's duration must be less than two years.
 - If enrolled in master's degree coursework, the master's degree must be part of a combined baccalaureate-master's program approved by the institution of higher education.
- c. Loan Amounts:
 - Annual: Cost of attendance less other financial aid and family resources
 - Aggregate: Cannot exceed manageable student loan debt as determined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
 - An origination fee will not be assessed for all approved FORWARD borrowers.
- d. Interest Rate:
 - Interest begins to accrue on the outstanding principal from the date of disbursement using simple interest.
 - Loans are not eligible for interest subsidy, but the interest is not capitalized.
 - Interest is currently at a fixed annual rate of 2.00%.

e. Additional Information:

- Where can they learn more about this program? Rules have been written for the FORWARD loan program and are in public comment period. Once Rules are finalized and approved, they will be available to schools. Also, information such as Fact Sheet, Program Comparison Chart, and Program Guidelines will be program resources for schools. More information can be found after rules are adopted: Coordinating Board Rules, Chapter 22, Subchapter C and the Texas Education Code, Chapter 52.
- What are the eligible high-demand credentials for the launch? Nursing/Patient Care, Teaching, Transportation/Logistics, Energy (223 separate CIP codes under these four disciplines)
- Are CIP codes specific to certain schools? How will schools know if they exist at their school? The CIP codes are not specific to certain schools.
- Who at the institution is responsible for confirming eligibility? Whoever currently certifies CAL loans would more than likely be responsible for confirming eligibility. However, we don't think we would stipulate who is responsible for confirming eligibility at the school. That should be a school decision.
- How will they be notified when a certification is ready? A CSV file will be uploaded to their folder in MoveIT.
- How do schools certify? School certification will occur in HelmNet.
- When will training be provided? TBD
- Will there be resources available to help navigate through the program (i.e., eligibility, loan management, returning funds, FADs, etc.) and when will those be released? Fact Sheet and Program Comparison Chart are currently in development. It is our understanding that FAS will be creating Program Guidelines for FORWARD. In addition, information will be on the various Agency websites. A soft launch of the program is scheduled for the Spring semester, a more robust launch later in the Spring for the Fall semester start.
- When will additional credentials be added? No set timeframe but assume new credentials will be added prior to the Fall 2023 semester. We would not anticipate new credentials mid-semester but it could happen.

Recent Memos:

- a. 12/06/22 Bilingual Education Program 2022-2023 Biennium Report Memo [PDF]
- b. 11/28/22 Texas Transfer Grant Pilot Program FY 2023 Available Spring 2023 Memo [PDF]
- c. 11/18/22: Institutional Financial Aid Calendar Spring 2023 [PDF]
- 4. Alert
- a. It has been reported that the State Net Price Calculator is not working. We are looking into the issue and will report when the portal is functioning again.
- Upcoming Memos
 - a. FY2023 FAD Manual
- Upcoming deadlines:
 - a. FY2023 TASSP Nominations from Legislators-12/31/2022
 - b. FY2022 Bilingual Education Biennium report-1/1/2023

- 7. Past Deadlines
 - a. FY 2022 State Campus Based report and TPEG Guidelines-10/28
 - i. Missing 8 reports
 - ii. Missing 31 TPEG Guidelines
 - b. Certification Deadline date for FY22 FAD Cycle Three-12/5/2022
 - i. 65 schools have not certified by the deadline.

9 schools have not submitted a file at all-we are here to assist

Agenda Item 16. Discussion Topic: 2022 FAAC Annual Report	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Discussion Summary:	
**See handout for agenda item 16 for more information.	
This report will be presented at our January Committee on Innovation, Data, and Educational Analytics.	
Agenda Item 17. Discussion Topic: NASFAA's SAI Modeling	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Discussion Tonic Tabled until March 2022 meeting	•

Discussion Topic Tabled until March 2023 meeting

Agenda Item 18. Discussion Topic: 2023 FAAC Meeting Dates and Location	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required Yes, motion approved

This meeting needs to present the 2023 meeting dates and locations.

- Motion: Denise Welch
- Second: Dede Gonzales

Reminder. Announcement: Expense Reports

Committee members passed the proposed dates for 2023.

Proposed dates.

- March 2 Virtual
- June 1 In-person (committee members departing)
- September 7 In-person (new committee members' first meeting)
- December 7 Virtual

Agenda Item 19. Discussion Topic: Feedback for Future Meetings	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Apply Texas	
Agenda Item 20. Adjournment	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Motion to Adjourn: Melet Leafgreen	•
Second: Cecelia Jones	
Adjourned at 2:42 p.m.	

Rachelè Garrett, Chair

March 2, 2023, FAAC Meeting Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance Via	<u>Virtual</u> Meeting Connection	Committee Members Absent
Rachelè Garrett, Chair	Lynda McKendree	Jackie Adler
Denise Welch, Past Chair	Holly Nolan	Rachel Joseph (Student Rep.)
DeChá Reid, THECB Rep	Shonna Norton	Thomas Ratliff
Victoria Chen	Sal Ramirez	
Dede Gonzales (TASFAA Rep.)	Joseph Ruiz	
Bridgette Ingram	Joseph Sanchez	
Cecelia Jones	Lisa Schoenbrun	
Melet Leafgreen	Tevian Sides	
Gaby Leon	Gilbert Zavala	
Scott Lapinski		
Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Introductions	and Overview of Meeting	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No		Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approv 2022	al of Minutes from the meeting held on December 8,	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes		Formal Decision/Action Required Yes – minutes approved
Summary:		•
 No corrections were identified 		

- No corrections were identified.
 - **See handout for agenda item 2 for more information.

	D. Ingram, Diversity Awareness Chair,
Agenda Item 3. Presentation: Diversity 101	Southwestern Association of Student
	Financial Aid Administrators
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required
	No

Presentation Summary:

Agenda Item 4. Presentation: Fall 2021 Student Financial Wellness Survey	Jeff Webster, Director of Research, and Carla Fletcher, Sr. Research Analyst, Trellis
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Presentation Summary:

^{**}See handout for agenda item 4 for more information.

Agenda Item 5. Update: Prior FAAC Business	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- Regarding EFA for TXWORKS Internship Program, TXWORKS does not count as EFA.
- For more information about the TXWORKS Program, you can email Vanessa Malo at vanessa.malo@highered.texas.gov

Agenda Item 6. Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, External Relations, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

- The Legislature has been in session for two months.
- Committees have been appointed in both chambers.
- Higher Education will function as a subcommittee in the Senate with Senator Brandon Creighton as the chair.
- Representative John Kuempel is the chair for the House Higher Education Committee
- Major funding and policy items:
 - Both chambers have introduced their first draft appropriation bills; introduced bills keep financial aid programs funding levels even with previous biennium.
 - THECB has requested additional financial aid assistance through Texas Grant, TEOG and TEG to keep those grants at the same service level as the last biennium so the same percentage of students can be served through those programs.
 - Senate Finance Committee & House Appropriations Committee meeting to discuss the budget proposals.

- HB8- Legislation to enact the recommendations made by the Community College Finance Commission.
 - Looking at how to fund community colleges & keep them affordable.
 - Recommendation: an increase in TEOG funding so that the TEOG program could serve 70% of eligible students (currently only serves approx.. 25-28% of eligible students).
 - Funding for this was included and will only happen if legislation is passed.
- Other bills to note:
 - SB34 and SB35-Texas Promise Grant bills (Sen. Zaffirini).
 - SB902- codify in statute Texas Leadership Scholar Programs (Sen. West)
 - o THECB included \$25 mil in funding for the program in its legislative appropriations request.
 - HB 1192 & SB371 TASSP bills intended to provide flexibility around the number of required participation years in the ROTC program (Rep. Turner & Sens. Eckhardt & Campbell)

Agenda Item 7. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB (presented by DeChà Reid)
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

The work is in the final stages of review & more updates are to come.

Agenda Item 8. Update: TASFA Subcommittee House Bill 3 (FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement) and House Bill 2140 (Online TASFA)	Bridgette Ingram, Subcommittee Chair; Claudette Jenks, Director, Strategic Advising and Leah Smalley, Assistant Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

• TASFA Subcommittee will meet on 3/3/23.

Agenda Item 9. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

**See handout for agenda item 9 for more information

Agenda Item 10. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: N/A	Formal Decision/Action Required N/A
Chanding Home	

Standing Item

Update Summary:

• No updates to provide.

Agenda Item 11. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)	Dede Gonzales, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

- Board meeting to discuss strategic plan for the next three years.
- Legislative Issues Committee drafted a letter (<u>found on TASFAA website</u>) to outline association's legislative goals, sent to the
 Commissioner, the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee, the House Higher Education Committee, and several legislators who have
 filed financial aid-related bills.
 - o Four Goals, three align state policies with federal policies.
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress
 - Selective Service
 - Drug Offenses
 - TEOG Matching
- · Regional Trainings are ongoing.

Agenda Item 12. Update: High School District	Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD; Shonna Norton, Wichita Falls ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

Concerned about the delay of the 2024-25 FAFSA.

Agenda Item 13. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Topics of Discussion:

- 1. Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)
- 2. New Staff Hires
- 3. Released and Upcoming Announcements
- 4. Upcoming and Past Deadline Dates

Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)

- GAPP is a modernized platform that will integrate 14 out 20 of the financial aid programs which consist of grants, work-study, loan repayment, exemption, and scholarships.
- The system will allow institutions to approve user access, upload documents (e.g., program participation), request payments, monitor
 program spending, send communication directly to THECB staff, and submit authority to transfer requests.
- The goal is to go live with a few programs in Fall 2023. The proposed programs are: Work-study programs, Educational Aide, and Bilingual Education.
- More information and training will be released introducing the improved payment platform.

Financial Aid Personnel Activity

- THECB has been busy with hiring and promoting internal staff. To date, we had:
 - New Hires: 4
 - 1 Manager II for our Workforce Aid (Loan Repayment) team
 - 1 Program Specialist III for our Institutional Aid (Operational) team
 - 2 Customer Service Reps for our Student Aid (Loan Origination) team
 - Vacancies: 2
 - 1 Programs Specialist III for our Institutional Aid (Operations) team
 - 1 Customer Services Rep III for our Workforce (Loan Repayment) team

Released Memos

- March 1, 2023 <u>Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) FY2024 Award Amounts Memo [PDF]</u>
- February 24, 2023 2022-23 (FY 2023) FORWARD Loan Program Guidelines Memo [PDF]
- February 22, 2023 NEW LOAN PROGRAM: FORWARD Loan Program Memo [PDF]
- February 21, 2023 Financial Aid Database (FAD) FY 2023 Update Memo [PDF]
- February 16, 2023 Texas State Financial Aid FY 2024 OPT-IN/OPT-OUT Form Memo [PDF]
- February 2, 2023 Texas Transfer Grant Program Spring 2023 Reimbursement Request Memo [PDF]
- January 26, 2023 Financial Aid Database (FAD) Manual FY 2023 (2022-23) Memo [PDF]
- January 25, 2023 Good Neighbor Program FY 2024 (2023-24) Memo [PDF]
- January 19, 2023 Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant and Texas Educational Opportunity Grant FY 2024 Award Amounts Memo [PDF]

Upcoming Memos

• March 6, 2023 – FY 2023 Authority to Transfer [PDF]

Upcoming deadlines

- March 3, 2023 2023-24 Texas State Financial Aid OPT-IN/OPT-OUT Form
- March 15, 2023 FY2023 Good Neighbor Program Nominations [PDF]

Past Deadlines

- February 28, 2023 Spring 2023 Texas Transfer Grant Reimbursement Request
 - As a reminder, the purpose of submitting your reimbursement data sooner is so the agency can assess the amount of spring funds available for reallocation to other schools that may need additional funding.

Agenda Item 14. Discussion Topic: Proposed Rules that Impact Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided:	Formal Decision/Action Required

These proposed rules will be adopted at our April Board Meeting.

Proposed Rule(s)	Proposed Amendments	
<u>19 TAC §22.1</u>	In 22.1, the definition of "expected family contribution" is amended to reflect that the phrase refers to the applicable federal methodology.	

19 TAC §§22.22 - 22.24, 22.28, 22.29	In §22.22, two redundant definitions are repealed since the items are explained elsewhere in the subchapter. In §22.23, the timing of data submissions is clarified to ensure that allocation activities can occur in a timely manner. In §22.24(8), eligibility criteria are provided for exceptional TEG need. In §22.28, a clarifying reference to §22.4 is added. In §22.29, outdated language is removed, with appropriate clarifying language. Section 22.29(c) is also removed since the language is being proposed separately as a new §22.30.
19 TAC §22.30	In 22.30, this new section will establish language currently in §22.29 as a separate rule for greater clarity.
19 TAC §22.49	In 22.49 will implement new standards regarding the aggregate and annual loan limits.

Another proposed rule change that we are interested in getting feedback on would impact community colleges.

Before we submit a request for a proposed rule change, we were hoping to get your input on whether you think the Coordinating Board should consider calculating two maximum TEOG amounts: an in-district amount and an out-of-district amount.

The statute does not distinguish between in-district vs. out-district: TEC 56.407(a) indicates, "the amount of a grant under this subchapter for a student enrolled full-time at an eligible institution is the amount determined by the coordinating board as the average statewide amount of tuition and required fees that a resident student enrolled full-time in an associate degree or certificate program would be charged for that semester or term at eligible institutions." This can be interpreted as both in-district and out-of-district students are residents.

However, our rule for calculating the maximum grant is based on in-district resident tuition and fees. (19 TAC §22.261(b)(2)). We understand that this can lead to some funding challenges at some community colleges, since out-of-district resident tuition and fees are usually several thousand dollars more than in-district resident tuition and fees. TEOG requires institutions to ensure that any TEOG recipient is receiving grant funds to cover tuition and fees. Many community colleges do not have significant institutional funds to draw from to cover the difference between the maximum TEOG and a student's out-of-district resident tuition and fees, and thus they may avoid offering TEOG to out-of-district students.

We are proposing to re-write our rule to calculate both an in-district maximum and an out-of-district maximum to provide institutions with greater flexibility in the utilization of their funding to support the goals of the TEOG program. What are your thoughts on this proposal?

If the TEOG appropriation increases that have been proposed by the Community College Finance Commission are approved, having an out-of-district maximum may be essential to ensuring institutions can execute the increased funding level.

Agenda Item 15. Discussion Topic: 2024-25 FAFSA Delay	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Discussion Summary:

Discussion on how institutions are approaching marketing & high school outreach related to the delay.

Agenda Item 16. Feedback for Future Meetings	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Feedback Summary:

- Legislative recap on various Financial Aid changes that may be occurring during the legislative session.
- Further 2024-25 FAFSA discussion to see if DoE has provided any guidance by June 1.

Agenda Item 17. Adjournment	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Summary:

- Motion to adjourn made by Denise Welch
- Motion to adjourn seconded

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Reminder. Announcement: Expense Reports	Rachelè Garrett, Chair

June 1, 2023, FAAC Meeting Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance (In-Person)	Committee Members in Attendance (Virtual)	Committee Members Absent
Rachelè Garrett, Chair	Jackie Adler	Rachel Joseph
Denise Welch, Past Chair	Cecelia Jones	Melet Leafgreen
DeChá Reid, THECB Rep	Shonna Norton	Holly Nolan
Victoria Chen	Thomas Ratliff	Sal Ramirez
Dede Gonzales	Lisa Schoenbrun	
Bridgette Ingram	Gilbert Zavala	
Gaby Leon		
Scott Lapinski		
Lynda McKendree		
Joseph Ruiz		
Joseph Sanchez		
Tevian Sides		

Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 2. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on December 8, 2022	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required Yes – minutes approved

Summary:

- No corrections were identified.
 - **See handout for agenda item 2 for more information.

Agenda Item 3. Update: Prior FAAC Business	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

No prior business

Agenda Item 4. Update: External Relations	John Wyatt, External Relations, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

- The Legislative Session concluded on May 29
- Most productive session based on the number of bills that were passed that supported higher education.
- Substantial investments in higher education:
 - Appropriated over 1.4 billion in three grant programs
 - Community colleges funded TEOG at the same service level at TEXAS Grant
 - HB8 enacted the Community College Finance
 - Creates a new program for dual credit students called FAST; will have an emergency rules which is good for 90 days (will come out in August 2023); FAST has three components:
 - Eligible Institution-Must agree to the terms of the program (this is an optional program-not mandatory); institution must treat the student based on the program; the institution will receive funding if the student enrolls and receives
 - Eligible Student-No cost be enrolled and educationally disadvantage (tuition, fees, and books)
 - Eligible Course-Has to be applicable towards an AA or Credential of Value (field of study, Foreign Language, Core,)
 - Eliminates the Pell requirement from TEOG
- HB8 added new programs
- HB 4434 expanded the Texas First to all public schools
- A new bill that creates a new program for competency-based programs
- HB4363 for Teachers First is a new program to help support teachers
- Authorized THECB that TEXAS Grant will fund top 10% high school graduates
- Transfer Grant and Texas Leadership will be supported in legislation; Texas Leaders is within statute and it has a research a research program for graduates
- \$25 million in loan repayment programs to support healthcare workforce
- Numerous programs in financial aid programs
- Still in the Governors veto period which ends on June 29; can veto a line item on the budget

- There are still contingencies that remain to determine which specific programs that were funded
- Will produce a summary of legislation for higher education by July
- There will be special sessions on specific items: property taxes and border and there will be more based on what the Governor decides is important.
- Educationally disadvantaged means a student that can receive free lunch four years prior to receiving FAST (Financial Aid Swift Transfer)

Agenda Item 5. Update: THECB Financial Aid Strategic Priority	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

**See handout for agenda item 5 for more information.

Agenda Item 6. Update: TASFA Subcommittee House Bill 3 (FAFSA/TASFA Graduation Requirement) and House Bill 2140 (Online TASFA)	Bridgette Ingram, Subcommittee Chair; Claudette Jenks, Director, Strategic Advising and Leah Smalley, Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- 2023-24 TASFA was delayed until summer; in regression testing for the application
- Developed an Admin portal for internal staff to help support students, parents, and schools,
- Over the past few months have done test files with the committee; confirmed that the test files can be released to all schools; will send out a notice in June; each school can do what they want to do with the test file and it is a good foundation for what 2024-25 will look like
- Looking at training and demo for June 2023 for schools and SFTP process
- Moved away from collecting a signature to an acknowledgment box similar to ApplyTX; this will change the file layout but will not
 change the position but will send out a new file layout
- Still a lot of work to be done for 2024-25; doing a massive comparison of what changes will impact TASFA
- The goal is to announce changes of the TASFA during the Sept FAAC meeting

Agenda Item 7. Update: Data Collection Subcommittee	Dede Gonzales, Subcommittee Chair
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

**See handout for agenda item 7 for more information

Agenda Item 8. Update: Legislative Subcommittee	Denise Welch, Past Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Update Summary:

- The TASFAA and FAAC Legislative combined the two groups
- Chris Murr, the chair has sent out an update about the bills that are awaiting for signatures

Agenda Item 9. Update: Texas Association for State Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)	Dede Gonzales, TASFAA President
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

- Completed the spring regional trainings which had about 85 participants; about a 40% pass rate with the NASFAA Credential
- Will have a joint SWASFAA and TASFAA conference in October; registration to open in June-Theme is Uncharted
- Denise Welch is President-Elect
- Elections are coming up this summer for new TASFAA Board members and a President

Agenda Item 10. Update: High School District	Lisa Schoenbrun, El Paso ISD; Shonna Norton, Wichita Falls ISD
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing	ltem.

Agenda Item 11. Update: Office of Student Financial Aid Programs	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Standing Item

Topics of Discussion:

- 5. Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)
- 6. New Staff Hires
- 7. Released and Upcoming Announcements
- 8. Upcoming and Past Deadline Dates

Grant Application and Payment Portal (GAPP)

- GAPP is a modernized platform that will integrate 14 out 20 of the financial aid programs which consist of grants, work-study, loan repayment, exemption, and scholarships.
- The system will allow institutions to approve user access, upload documents (e.g., program participation), request payments, monitor
 program spending, send communication directly to THECB staff, and submit authority to transfer requests.
- The goal is to go live with a few programs in Fall 2023. The proposed programs are: Work-study programs, Educational Aide, and Bilingual Education.
- More information and training will be released introducing the improved payment platform.

Financial Aid Personnel Activity

- THECB has been busy with hiring and promoting internal staff. Charles mentioned our recent reorganization; we are continuing to look at how best to structure our area to fit the needs of our customers and the agency.
 - New Hires: 2
 - 1 Customer Service Representative for our Loan Repayment team
 - 1 Program Specialist III for our Institutional Aid (Operational) team

Released Announcements

- May 15, 2023 Memo: 10-Day Review Data Review (Preliminary Allocations)
- May 15, 2023 Memo: TEXAS Grant 10-Day Allocation Data Review
- May 15, 2023 Memo: TEOG 10-Day Allocation Data Review
- May 15, 2023 Memo: Texas College Work-Study Program 10-Day Allocation Data Review
- May 15, 2023 Memo: EAE 10-Day Allocation Data Review
- May 15, 2023 Memo: 2024-2025 TEG OPT-IN/OPT-OUT Form
- May 18, 2023 Memo: State Net Price Calculator (2021-22)
- May 18, 2023 Dear Colleagues: Institutional Calendar Summer 2023
- May 22, 2023 Memo: Good Neighbor Program FY 2024 (2023-24) Selected Students

Upcoming Memos

- June 7, 2023 Memo: 2023 FAD Cycle 2 Opens
- June 16, 2023 Memo: 2024-25 Program Participation Agreement Announcement
- June 22, 2023 Memo: TEG 10-Day Allocation Data Review
- Launching GAPP

Upcoming deadlines

- All private/independent institutions eligible to participate in the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Program are **required** to complete the 2024-2025 Biennium (FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25) Opt-In/Opt-Out form. Notifications were sent to financial aid directors at each institution. The deadline to submit the form is today, **June 1, 2023**.
- All public institutions that enroll full-time entering first year students are required to submit the most recent version (2021-22) of the
 U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Net Price Calculator template to the THECB by June 23, 2023. See memo from May 18, 2023.
- Institutions requesting to transfer funds between state grant and work-study programs must submit a request by July 1, 2023 using
 the Authority to Transfer form. Please see the memo from Mar. 6, 2023.

Past Deadlines

None.

Agenda Item 12. Discussion Topic: Recognition of Members Stepping Down	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Discussion Summary:

• This topic will discuss the FAAC members whose term ends on 6/30/2023.

Denise Welch – Panola College Victoria Chen – Texas Christian University Bridgette Ingram – Texas A&M University

Holly Nolan – University of Houston Clear Lake Shonna Norton – Wichita Falls Independent School District Thomas Ratliff – Abilene Christian University Joseph Ruiz – Del Mar College Joseph Sanchez – UNT Health Science Center

Agenda Item 13. Discussion Topic: Recommendation on Proposed Nominees for 2023 FAAC	DeChà Reid, Senior Director, THECB
Handout Provided: Yes	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Discussion Summary:

- This topic will discuss the proposed 2023 FAAC member recommendations.
 - **See handout for agenda item 13 for more information.

Agenda Item 14. Discussion Topic: State Priority Deadline	Charles Contero-Puls, Assistant Commissioner, THECB
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No

Discussion Summary:

- This topic will discuss the impact of the 2024-25 FAFSA not being available until December and to gather FAAC recommendation on whether an alternate financial aid application deadline is necessary for 2024-2025 academic year.
- The Jan. 15 State Priority Deadline is in administrative rule
- Proposed a new rule that will provide the Commissioner the flexibility to delay the rule if there is an extenuating circumstance (i.e., natural disaster); this is an annual review based on the circumstances; this will go back to 1/15 for 2025-26.
- The rule will go to the July Board meeting for approval and will not be official until August 2023; want to get the feedback early.
- Received a couple of comments back for approval of the new rule
- Input from FAAC on the delay of 2024-25:
- Agree about 3/15 is a reasonable date
- ASAP, check with your school (recommended submission date)

Agenda Item 15. Transition of Leadership	Rachelè Garrett, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 16. Feedback for Future Meetings	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Agenda Item 17. Adjournment	Melet Leafgreen, Chair
Handout Provided: No	Formal Decision/Action Required No
Summary: Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.	
Reminder. Announcement: Expense Reports	Rachelè Garrett, Chair