

Texas First Early High School Completion Program

TAC Chapter 21, Subchapter D

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Overview and Purpose

Nearly 6,000 Texas students graduating in the Top 10% are missing from our higher education enrollments

- Texas is losing academically talented students, including African-American, Hispanic, and other underrepresented populations
- Keeping these students in Texas will contribute to the equity goals of *Building a Talent Strong Texas*

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Why the Texas First Program?

Promote efficiency in the state public education system and incentivize the enrollment of high performing students at eligible institutions

- Allows public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school
- Eligible students receive a scholarship credit equivalent up to one year of the TEXAS Grant

Outreach Campaign

Texas OnCourse counselor/advisor modules

Statewide Webinar

Targeted Outreach and Marketing Campaign

Joint printable document published to TEA and THECB websites

Student Eligibility

Agency staff collaborated with enrollment and admissions leadership at eligible institutions and TEA staff to craft proposed rules establishing student eligibility

Eligibility addresses both overall academic knowledge and skills but also by specific subject areas, as per statute

Texas First Scholarship

TAC Chapter 22, Subchapter T

A state credit for students graduating through the Texas First
Early High School Completion Program

Scholarship Amount (TAC 22.555)

- Based on the student's early graduation
 - Two or more semesters early: Equal to the maximum two-semester TEXAS Grant amount (\$10,758 for Academic Year 2022-2023)
 - Less than two semesters early: Equal to the maximum one-semester TEXAS Grant amount (\$5,379 for Academic Year 2022-2023)
- Must be used by the end of the first academic year following the student's high school graduation (TAC 22.554)
- THECB notification to all eligible students

Eligible Institutions (TAC 22.552)

Research Universities

- Texas A&M University
- The University of Texas at Austin

Emerging Research Universities

- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas at Dallas
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas

Timeline for Implementation

Proposed rules published in <i>Texas Register</i>	April 20, 2022
30-day Public Comment Period Ended	May 29, 2022
Board Consideration for Approval	July 28, 2022
Rules become Effective*	Late August 2022
Opportunity for Initial Cohort of Texas First High School Diploma Graduates	December 2022
Opportunity for Enrollment of First Cohort at Eligible Institutions	January 2023 (Spring)

*with approval