TECHNOLOGY EFFORTS AND MODERNIZATION

Senate Finance Committee
February 5, 2025

TEXAS 2036

Key Takeaways

House Bill 8, passed during the 88th Legislative Session, introduced a transformative outcomes-based funding model for Texas's community colleges, aligning education with workforce needs.

Enhanced data capabilities are essential to track student outcomes, align education programs with workforce needs, and inform decision-making for both policymakers and institutions.

The Coordinating Board's LAR Exceptional Item #3 on technology modernization is critical to achieving these goals, supporting broader workforce readiness efforts and effectively implementing House Bill 8.

Background

By 2030, 62% of Texas jobs will require postsecondary education or training. In response, the legislature has invested in education and workforce data systems to ensure a skilled workforce is available to meet this demand. House Bill 8, passed during the 88th Legislative Session, is a cornerstone of this effort, introducing an outcomes-based funding model for community colleges.

For this model to work effectively, Texas needs up-to-date, reliable data systems to track and report student success. These data systems will allow schools to measure how well they are preparing students for the workforce and will guide state funding decisions. The technology modernization efforts funded by Exception Item #3 will help provide the necessary infrastructure to support the successful rollout of House Bill 8, ensuring funds are directed toward programs that deliver real results for students and employers.

Proposed Action

Texas 2036 supports the adoption of exceptional item #3 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) legislative appropriations request for technology efforts and modernization. This funding will help accomplish the Tri-Agency's workforce goal of providing publicly available education and workforce data. Texas 2036 also supports authorization for four Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions to staff the data security and modernization efforts.

Budget Cost Estimate

The THECB requests

$15 MILLION and four FTEs for the biennium

Public Policy Impact

Investing in actionable education and workforce data is crucial to achieving Texas' higher education goal of building a talent strong Texas, which includes ensuring 60% of all working-age Texans obtain a postsecondary credential of value by 2030. Texas will better meet the needs of its employers and ensure that its workforce is prepared for the jobs of the future. This commitment to data-driven decision-making ensures the state remains competitive and its economy thrives.

For additional information, please contact:

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