



Dallas County Community College District 85th Legislative Session Recap

Texas community colleges are vital to the overall well-being of Texas. DCCCD and our 165,000 students, along with our 49 community colleges across the state, play a central role in maintaining Texas' economic engine and educating the majority of entering freshman and sophomore students.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

EDUCATION AND FUNDING

Community colleges, enrolling 52 percent of Texas students in public higher education, are ready to lead through innovative approaches. We are committed to performance-based funding and prepared to do the heavy lifting so that Texas can achieve the goal of the 60x30TX higher education plan.

Early Childhood Baccalaureate Bill

The job market in Dallas County is short by more than 4,000 early childhood educators. DCCCD has a solution: create an Early Childhood Institute and award baccalaureate degrees in early childhood education. By offering a quality and affordable degree, we support the governor's mission of a quality pre-k and help fill the teacher shortage without adding a fiscal note to the state.

OUTCOME: S.B. 2118 was passed and signed by Governor Abbott. It will allow community colleges to offer a quality, affordable bachelor's degree in applied science, including applied science with an emphasis in early childhood education, applied technology or nursing

Funding for the Future

All Texas community colleges are seeking specific funding amounts – to serve over 700K students – for each of the three major components of state funding for community colleges: Core Operations, Success Points and Instruction/Contact Hours. The total request in new funds for the 2018-2019 biennium is \$1.83 billion – a 5 percent increase for colleges that have grown 62 percent since 2000.

OUTCOME: S.B. 1 funds all community colleges at \$1.764 billion. Specifically, DCCCD received \$179,301,855 – which includes special items funding. Overall, a 2.6 percent increase from the current funding level.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Texas community colleges continuously demonstrate innovative ways of preparing students for the workforce, and are rethinking what defines student and community success by exploring efficiencies in how we run our institutions.

Recruit Texas Bill

Partnerships in Texas are key to success and to ensure we are wide open for business. We propose an economic development program to attract or expand new businesses in Texas. Recruit Texas provides turnkey workforce training and will utilize the training strength of our community and technical colleges to deliver training needs. Recruit Texas seeks to redirect current funds within the Texas Workforce Commission, and it asks community colleges to invest in the partnership.

OUTCOME: H.B. 108 — “Recruit Texas” — was passed and signed by Governor Abbott. H.B. 108 allows Texas to remain competitive by granting permission to the Texas Workforce Commission to access skills development funds. The funds will allow community colleges and businesses wishing to relocate to Texas the opportunity to partner and recruit employees, provide safety training and leadership development.

[Small Business Development Centers \(SBDC\)\(SB1, Article 3, Special Items\)](#)

For every \$1 invested in TX SBDC, \$5.38 in tax revenue is generated. Statewide, there are four SBDC lead offices; one is housed at the Dallas County Community College District. SBDC conducts research, and counsels and trains business people in managing, financing and operating small businesses. SBDC plays a pivotal role in driving the Texas economy by creating jobs and generating revenue for the state. We believe in keeping the Texas economy strong by funding SBDC.

OUTCOME: Through higher education special items funding, the state appropriated \$3,856,647 for the North Texas SBDC. The North Texas SBDC serves 49 counties through 12 offices and several satellite branches.