

PROGRAMS TARGETING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY



AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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OBJECTIVE

The Texas Education Agency provides funding targeting high school students through the High School Allotment within the Foundation School Program (FSP), and through five additional programs:

- ◆ Communities in Schools (CIS);
- ◆ Texas Advanced Placement (AP) Initiative;
- ◆ Online College and Career Preparation Technical Assistance Program;
- ◆ Early College High School and Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (T-STEM); and
- ◆ Texas Academic Innovation and Mentoring program.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

The Eighty-third Legislature appropriated an All Funds total of \$762.4 million to the Texas Education Agency for programs targeting high school students in the 2014–15 biennium.

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Texas Education Code, Chapter 33, Subchapter E.

Texas Education Code, Chapter 7, Subchapter B.

Texas Education Code, Chapter 28, Subchapter C

Texas Education Code, Section 39.234

Texas Education Code, Section 42.160

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides funding targeting high school students through the High School Allotment within the Foundation School Program (FSP), and through five other programs, including Communities in Schools (CIS); the Texas Advanced Placement (AP) Initiative; the Online College and Career Preparation Technical Assistance Program; Early College High School and Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (T-STEM); and the Texas Academic Innovation and Mentoring program. Fig. 1 provides an overview of funding for programs targeting high school students at TEA.

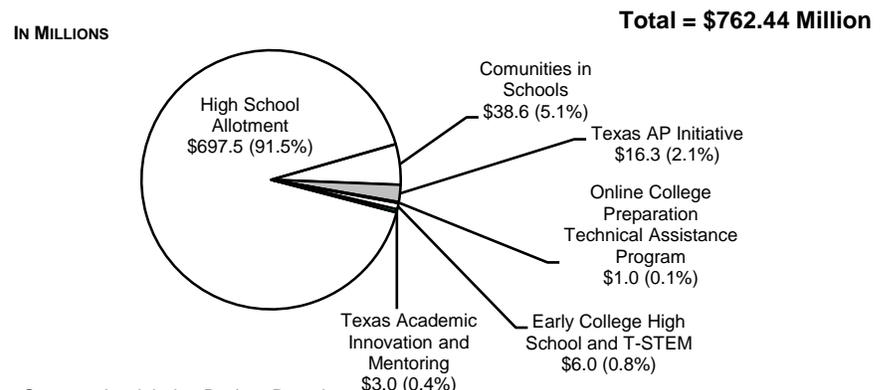
HIGH SCHOOL ALLOTMENT

The largest source of funding targeting high school students is the High School Allotment within the FSP. This allotment provides \$275 to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for each student in average daily attendance in grades 9 through 12. The estimated entitlement attributable to the high school allotment for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 is \$346.2 million and \$351.3 million, respectively. These funds can be used to administer programs that prepare underachieving students for college, encourage students to pursue advanced academic opportunities, provide opportunities for students to take academically rigorous course work, or align the curriculum for grades six through 12 with postsecondary curriculum expectations.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

The CIS program, which is affiliated with a national non-profit organization and administered at the state level by TEA, operates in 27 communities across Texas with the goals of improving school attendance, academic achievement, and behavior of students at risk of dropping out of school. Based on a case-management model, local CIS coordinators work with individual students to provide support and services according to an individualized needs assessment. The support and services provided to students focus on academic support, college and career readiness, enrichment activities, health and human services, parent and family involvement, and supportive guidance and counseling.

FIG. 1: 2014–15 BIENNIAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR TEA PROGRAMS TARGETING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

TEA's 2014–15 biennial appropriations include \$31.0 million in General Revenue Funds to support the program, an increase of \$11.5 million from the 2012–13 biennial spending level. In addition, the Legislature maintains a biennial allocation of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) of \$7.6 million to provide services to TANF-eligible students. Local CIS programs also receive significant funding from local government and private sources, which on a statewide basis, make up an average of 79 percent of total funding. In fiscal year 2013, 63,527 case-managed students participated in CIS throughout Texas. In fiscal year 2014, TEA anticipates that 81,592 students will participate in CIS across 140 school districts and charter schools.

TEXAS ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Texas Advanced Placement Incentive (AP) Program directs funds to subsidize AP exam fees for high school students and to provide professional development to teachers of AP courses. For the 2013-14 school year, TEA is providing a \$30 test fee subsidy for each AP and International Baccalaureate (IB) exam taken by economically disadvantaged students and reimbursing districts up to \$450 for each qualified teacher who receives TEA-approved AP/IB or pre-AP/IB training. The Texas AP Incentive is funded at \$16.3 million for the 2014–15 biennium, an increase of \$2.5 million from the 2012–13 biennial spending level.

ONLINE COLLEGE PREPARATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Online College Preparation Technical Assistance Program is a website maintained by TEA that is available to all students in grades 6 through 12 who attend a public or open-enrollment charter school, their parents, and educators. The site is accessible at www.texascollegeandcareer.org and is meant to serve as a comprehensive one-stop website presented in English and Spanish for students to prepare for the college application process. The website helps students track their high school courses and credits; organize test scores, awards, and personal interests; research colleges and universities; manage and track applications online; research and apply for financial aid; and engage in career planning. In the 2012–13 biennium, TEA was appropriated \$4.0 million for the Online College Preparation Technical Assistance Program, which included \$1.0 million for the operation of the website, and \$3.0 million in grants to schools for technical assistance related to the program. In the 2014–15 biennium, TEA was appropriated \$1.0 million, which the agency is using for the operation of the website.

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL AND T-STEM

The Early College High School program provides grants to support districts and charter schools partnering with nearby institutions of higher education to allow students to earn a high school diploma and at least 60 hours of college credit simultaneously at no additional cost to the student. In fiscal year 2013, 65 early college high schools across the state helped approximately 22,000 students receive up to 60 hours of college credit while still in high school.

The T-STEM grant program supports middle and high schools focusing on rigorous instruction in science and mathematics with the goal of increasing the number of students studying and entering STEM-related fields through T-STEM Academies. T-STEM Academies are demonstration schools and learning labs that develop innovative methods to improve science and mathematics instructions. T-STEM programs target schools with high proportions of students at risk of dropping out. Rider 57 directs \$6.0 million to support both Early College High School and T-STEM, in the 2014–15 biennium. In the 2012–13 biennium, TEA expended \$3.0 million for each program.

TEXAS ACADEMIC INNOVATION AND MENTORING (TEXAS AIM)

The Texas Academic Innovation and Mentoring (Texas AIM) Program is operated by the Boys and Girls Club and the Sylvan Learning Centers. Texas AIM is designed to close the gaps in student achievement among minority, low-income, and Limited English Proficient students who are at risk of dropping out, by providing after school academic instruction and tutoring; parent engagement activities; fine arts activities; working to develop health, leadership, and problem-solving skills; and assigning adult advocates. TEA allocates \$1.5 million per fiscal year to implement Texas AIM. The program operates in 37 Boys and Girls Clubs, and served 10,374 students in fiscal year 2013.

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