

# TEXAS COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE FUND



AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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## OBJECTIVE

The Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund provides funding to support faculty for the purpose of instructional excellence and research.

## KEY FACTS

- ◆ Five general academic institutions receive appropriations for the Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund.
- ◆ The 2012–13 appropriations provide approximately \$0.7 million to each eligible institution for every \$10.0 million in research expenditures averaged for the previous three-year period.

## BUDGETARY IMPACT

The Eighty-second Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, appropriated \$93.5 million in General Revenue funding for the Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund for the 2012–13 biennium.

## STATUTORY REFERENCES

General Appropriations Act (2012–13 Biennium) Article III, Higher Education Special Provisions, Section 56.

The Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund (TCKF) is authorized by the General Appropriations Act (2012–13 Biennium) Article III, Higher Education Special Provisions, Section 56 (GAA). Certain institutions are provided appropriations directly in a strategy named the “Competitive Knowledge Fund”. The GAA prescribes that this funding will be used to support faculty for the purpose of instructional excellence and research. Funding was first allocated in these strategies by the Legislature for the 2008–09 biennium.

Current institutions receiving TCKF appropriations include The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, University of Houston, Texas Tech University, and the University of Texas at Dallas. Institutions are allocated funding appropriated to the TCKF based on average research expenditures for the previous three-year period. In practice, when institutions have first received distributions from the fund, appropriations have been reduced from the institution’s special item strategies. In subsequent biennia, the institution continues to receive appropriations from the TCKF and the reduction in special items is not specifically restored.

## GENERAL REVENUE FUND APPROPRIATIONS

The initial 2008–09 structure of the fund provided \$1.0 million in General Revenue Funds for every \$10.0 million in research expenditures. The Eighty-second Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, appropriated \$93.5 million in Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund strategies directly to the institutions. This funding level provides approximately \$0.7 million to each institution for every \$10.0 million in research expenditures. This strategy was moved from the Special Item Goal into the Research Goal during the Eighty-second Legislature. Fig.1 compares the 2008–09, 2010–11 and 2012–13 allocations for each institution.

**FIG. 1**  
**TEXAS COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE FUND STRATEGY ALLOCATIONS**  
**2008–09, 2010–11 AND 2012–13 BIENNIA**

INSTITUTION	2008–09	2010–11	2012–13
The University of Texas at Austin	\$39,388,771	\$51,627,098	\$36,783,564
Texas A&M University	40,527,466	52,628,025	39,806,470
University of Houston	8,199,621	8,503,519	6,123,958
Texas Tech University	5,091,756	5,560,997	6,041,190
The University of Texas at Dallas	--	--	4,730,242
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93,207,615</b>	<b>\$118,319,638</b>	<b>\$93,485,424</b>

SOURCE: Legislative Budget Board.

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