



**Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Implementation of House Bill 1  
(as of February 2008)**

**Education Research Centers (Section 1.005)**

The Education Research Centers focus on research regarding the impact of state and federal education programs, the performance of educator preparation programs, and best practices of school districts in classroom instruction. The three centers are located at The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Dallas.

**Development of College Readiness Standards (Section 28.008)**

The four vertical teams (English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) submitted their draft college readiness standards to the commissioner of higher education in January 2008. They were adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB or Board) on January 24, 2008. The THECB currently is undertaking a gap analysis of the CRS and THECB-identified entry-level college courses to determine if the CRS reflect actual practice of institutions of higher education (IHEs) in terms of student expectations and course requirements.

**P-16 College Readiness and Success Strategic Action Plan (Section 61.0761)**

The state-level P-16 Council adopted the mandated plan that was developed jointly by THECB, TEA, TWC and DARS in November 2006. Its eight objectives focus on increasing student success and decreasing the number of students enrolled in developmental course work in IHEs. The Plan also was approved by the commissioner of education and the THECB. The Board has aligned its college readiness initiatives with the Plan's objectives.

**Programs to Enhance Student Success (Section 61.0762)**

Programs developed under this section are designed to enhance the success of students at institutions of higher education.

- **Summer Bridge Programs:** There are two types of summer bridge programs included in this category. The first is for high school students who are not college ready in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. In 2007, 17 projects serving almost 700 students were funded at 14 IHEs. Grant applications currently are being reviewed by TEA and THECB staff to select programs for 2008. The second category funds services to students needing developmental education. Twenty-one projects serving almost 1,500 students were funded in 2007. In 2008, the intensive summer programs

mandated as part of HB 2237 will take the place of the developmental education summer bridge programs.

- Innovative Developmental Education Initiatives: To create statewide momentum in rethinking and strengthening developmental education, THECB funded eight course redesign projects for developmental education as well as blended courses that combine developmental education with entry-level course work.
- Professional Development Projects on College Readiness Standards: This section of the law will be implemented in 2008; however, the IHEs already have appointed P-16 Special Advisors whose responsibilities include building awareness of the CRS on their campuses. These advisors report to the chief academic officer of the IHE and will assist the Board during 2009. Additionally, TEA and THECB are discussing joint projects for 2008 that support professional development for both public and higher education faculty.
- Other College Readiness Initiatives that Support "Closing the Gaps by 2015"  
Projects implemented under this subsection of the law include:
  - P-16 Regional Councils: These regional councils include public and higher education administrators, business and workforce representatives, and community leaders and will foster systemic change in how educational institutions and communities work together to create and sustain a college-going culture.
  - College Connections: This partnership between community colleges and public school districts provide pre-college services (college readiness testing, financial aid advising, etc.) to high school seniors on their high school campus.
  - Certification for Dual Enrollment Teachers in Mathematics: This pilot project provides an on-line certification program that qualifies high school teachers to teach dual credit courses in mathematics. If successful, IHEs will be encouraged to replicate it in their areas.

### **Course Redesign (Section 61.0763)**

Approximately 20 entry-level courses are being redesigned through innovative use of technology. The purpose of the redesign project is to improve student learning and reduce the cost of course delivery.

### **Texas Governor's School (Section 29.124 has been moved to Section 61.07621)**

The Texas Governor's School provides a summer residential program for high-achieving students focusing on one or more of the following areas: mathematics and science; the humanities; fine arts; and/or leadership and public policy. In 2007, the University of North Texas sponsored a four-week science academy for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. There will be up to three schools during the summer of 2008.