

Interim Charge 1:

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- HB 1638 (85R), which relates to statewide goals for dual credit programs. Review best practices for providing opportunities to high school students to earn college credit while ensuring that courses taken reflect authentic, college-level rigor.

1. What challenges have institutions faced with dual credit prior to and as a result of the pandemic?
2. How have institutions addressed these challenges?

On behalf of the Texas State University System, please refer to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board response.

3. What changes, if any, are needed to ensure that students have opportunities to earn college credit which fulfills the criteria outlined above?

- SB 18, which relates to the protection of expressive activities at public institutions of higher education. Monitor the process by which institutions of higher education implement policies to protect the expressive rights of persons guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and of this state.

1. What have institutions done to protect the expressive rights of persons while also maintaining an orderly and safe learning environment?

Since passage of SB 18, the Texas State University System has endeavored to be fully compliant with the requirements of the statute, including, but not limited to, changing all campus grounds from limited to traditional public forums subject only to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions. The System has also ensured that all such time, place and manner restrictions must be reasonable, viewpoint-neutral and nondiscriminatory. As the System's review of its policies are continuous and on-going, additional modifications may be made as necessary to safeguard the important principles of free speech and assure everyone's right to engage in expressive activities on our campuses.

- SB 25, which relates to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education. Monitor the process by which the Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts rules via negotiated rulemaking. Monitor the progress of institutions developing recommended course sequences and the progress of the feasibility study to implement statewide meta majors.

1. In what ways can data collection and sharing between THECB and TEA improve and assist institutions with college credit transferability?

N/A

2. What role can school counselors and advisors play in the success of transferable credits? Are there ways in which the state can utilize their expertise and student relationships more effectively?

Many school counselors and advisors struggle to balance the needs of students with their many administrative responsibilities. Creating a program of recent college graduates with the most up-to-date training and college advising knowledge would be very helpful to high school students, parents, and high school instructors who also help guide students on college going decisions.