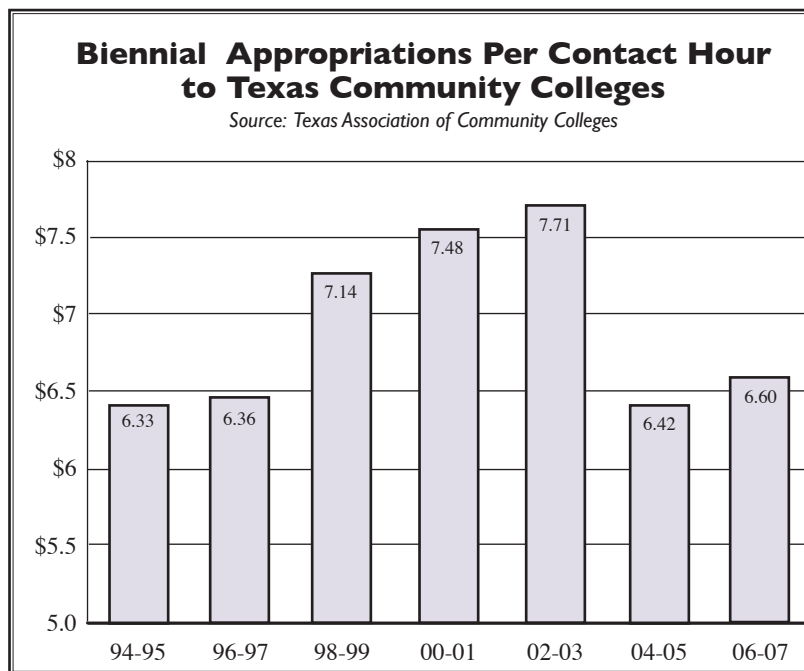


2007 “Talking Points” For Communicating with Legislators

Formula Funding Increase Needed

- TCCTA supports the funding goals of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, including the *New Community College Compact with Texas*, and the *Closing the Gaps* initiative of the Coordinating Board.
- The state is now paying 52 percent of the instructional “formula,” which is based on enrollment and the associated cost of instruction in each field.
- The appropriation per contact hour (dividing the formula appropriation for a biennium by the base period contact hours for that biennium) is provided by the chart at right.
- Community colleges accounted for 75 percent of freshmen and sophomores in fall 2006.



TCCTA Supports Academic Integrity

- The “College Readiness” provisions of HB 1, passed during the recent special session, have the full support of our association.
- “Performance funding” measures should be designed carefully to insure that academic standards and rigor in college courses are not placed in jeopardy. The complete mission of community colleges in workforce education should be funded without penalty.
- Any changes in the Core Curriculum should be the result of deliberation by faculty at all levels and the Coordinating Board, following the process that created the Core in 1997. These courses tend to be intensive in reading, writing, and mathematics—skills needed for success in all disciplines.
- Any effort to reduce the semester hours required for a degree constitutes an attempt to “lower the bar” in Texas higher education, precisely when global competition demands high standards in all fields.

TCCTA Legislative Program 2007

1. Support the formula funding recommendations of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
2. Support the Legislature’s historical commitment to funding employee health benefits, including adjustments for inflation and rising costs.
3. Support efforts to improve funding and benefits for community and technical college employees and retirees in TRS and ORP.

“Accountability” in Effect Now

- TCCTA welcomes all valid documentation of community and technical college “accountability,” such as the measures reported under current law to the Coordinating Board.
- Community colleges are held accountable by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional accrediting agency for professional standards.
- Faculty in many workforce disciplines (nursing, cosmetology, *etc.*) must report to accrediting agencies at the state or national level.
- Faculty members are routinely evaluated by college administrators under local board policies. Student evaluations are typically part of this process.
- Colleges are accountable to local taxpayers through policies enacted by elected trustees.

Questions and requests for additional information are welcome and may be directed to the Texas Community College Teachers Association.

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