Wharton County Junior College

Board of Trustees
Agenda Item

Date of Board Meeting: November 17, 2026

Recommendation: Approve WCJC's participation in the Texas Financial Aid for Swift Transfer Program effective Fiscal Year 2028.

Background and Rationale:

WCJC administration recommends participation in the state's Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program as a means of strategically expanding educational access for low-income, dual credit students. Established under House Bill 8 (88th), FAST provides state funding to participating institutions of higher education for eligible dual credit students who are classified as "free and reduced lunch". The program is designed to expand access to college-level coursework, reduce financial barriers for students and families, and encourage postsecondary enrollment and completion for low-income students.

Participation in FAST requires the College to provide eligible students with dual credit coursework at no cost, with the state reimbursing the College at the established FAST funding rate. The program also requires participating institutions to comply with applicable tuition and fee limitations for dual credit students, namely a maximum per hour cost set no higher than the current FAST funding rate.

In addition to approving participation in the FAST Program, administration also recommends revising the College's dual credit rate to $0 per semester credit hour for students residing within the College's taxing district and $60 per semester credit hour for students residing outside the taxing district. These rates will apply to dual credit students who are not otherwise eligible for tuition coverage through FAST.

The recommendations presented align with WCJC's strategic commitment to expanding educational access, strengthening partnerships with area school districts, and creating affordable pathways for students to earn college credit while completing high school.

Budgetary Implications: $20,000 (Estimated increase in dual credit revenue for Fiscal Year 2028)

Resource Personnel: Amanda A. Allen, Ed.D.; President

Approval:

Amanda Allen 11/06/2026
President