



November 30, 2022

Betty A. McCrohan, President
Wharton County Junior College
911 Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488

Via Email: betty@wcjc.edu

**RE: Designation of unassigned service areas in Fort Bend County to Houston Community College
Follow-up**

Dear President McCrohan,

Thank you for taking time to discuss my request regarding designation of certain unassigned college service areas in Fort Bend County. My request was detailed in a letter to you dated October 24, 2022 (attached as **Exhibit A** for ease of reference). HCC's proposed designation is limited to two areas where HCC has been serving students with dual credit instruction for many years. This letter is to highlight items discussed during our virtual meeting on November 9, 2022.

1. Impact on property taxes for the designated areas
The proposed designation applies only to inclusion of the areas in Fort Bend County into HCC's service area. This transaction **does not affect any property taxes in these areas**. Please note that HCC retains its authority granted through Texas statutes to call for future elections regarding taxing, but this is not a consideration for the proposed designation.
2. Impact on state community college funding of dual credit tuition
The Texas Community College Finance Commission (TXCCFC) recently published its recommendations to the state legislature. The recommendations related to dual credit are summarized here in **Exhibit B**. The proposed designation **aligns HCC's service area to students using proposed legislative definitions and would align with legislation and rules related to funding of dual credit instruction by the state**. In FY 2022, HCC's dual credit waivers and discounts resulted in over \$12M of lost revenues for the college. These losses are expected to increase because of increases in dual credit enrollment. Obviously, the current funding model lacks sustainability. HCC has prioritized support for legislation resulting in a funding model appropriate to provide access to the many students that depend on dual credit courses to mitigate the cost of a post-secondary education and accelerate college completion.
3. Support by FBISD
The proposed designation **is supported by Fort Bend Independent School District**. On November 14, 2022, I met with Superintendent Dr. Christie Whitbeck, to discuss the subject. Dr. Whitbeck expressed support for the proposed designation of the two areas already being served by HCC to be included in HCC's service area.
4. Affected legislation
The proposed designation **is expected to amend HCC's service area designation as defined in TEC§130.182(3)**, which currently states "the part of the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) that is located in the municipalities of Houston, Missouri City, and Pearland" to a description that includes the two subject areas.

To: Betty McCrohan, Wharton County Junior College President
Re: Designation of unassigned service areas to HCC

November 30, 2022
Page 2

Attached as **Exhibit C** is a draft letter for your use to express your support of HCC's proposed designation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments or would like further discussion.

Sincerely,



Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
Chancellor

cc: E. Ashley Smith, HCC General Counsel
Remmele Young, Vice Chancellor, Public Information, Communications & External Affairs
Dr. Shantay Grays, Vice Chancellor, Student Services
Dr. Norma Perez, Vice Chancellor, Instructional Services & CAO
Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins, Vice Chancellor of Workforce Instruction & Southwest College President
Dr. Kurt Ewen, Chief of Staff and Vice Chancellor of Strategy, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness



HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Office of the Chancellor

P.O. Box 667517, Houston, TX 77266-7517

hccs.edu

October 24, 2022

Betty A. McCrohan, President
Wharton County Junior College
911 Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488

Via Email: betty@wcjc.edu

RE: Designation of unassigned FBISD service areas to Houston Community College

Dear President McCrohan,

I request your support of Houston Community College System (HCC) codifying its partnership with Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) students and community. As you know, HCC has a campus in Missouri City and provides significant dual credit instruction to FBISD students. HCC is partner with FBISD at 3 early college and P-Tech high schools. Further, HCC is providing traditional dual credit instruction at 11 FBISD high schools. These services are provided for FBISD high schools within HCC's Service Area as well as for some in the unassigned service areas. I seek your support for including these unassigned areas into HCC's statutorily defined Service Area.

As you know, Texas community colleges operate in service areas assigned by state statute. "Service Area" means the territory where the college provides instructional services and is inclusive of both taxing districts and non-taxing areas. HCC's Service Area is defined as (TEC§130.182):

- (1) the Houston, Alief, Katy, Spring Branch, and North Forest independent school districts;
- (2) the Stafford Municipal School District; and
- (3) the part of the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) that is located in the municipalities of Houston, Missouri City, and Pearland.

Exhibit 1 illustrates HCC's existing Service Area in relation to adjoining community colleges.

Statutes also assign a portion of FBISD to Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) (TEC§130.211). However, two (2) areas served by FBISD are not assigned to any community college. These areas are marked as Area 1 and Area 2 in **Exhibit 1**. Area 1 is contiguous to both HCC and WCJC while Area 2 is contiguous to HCC, WCJC, and Alvin Community College (ACC). **Exhibit 2** shows additional details of both areas. **Exhibit 3** lists population and demographic data from the 2020 census for both areas.

Prior to any legislative activity to assign these areas to HCC, I seek your concurrence and support. I would like to schedule a meeting to discuss my request and answer any questions you may have. In the alternative, please let me know if you support this request and I will draft a letter of support and forward for your consideration.

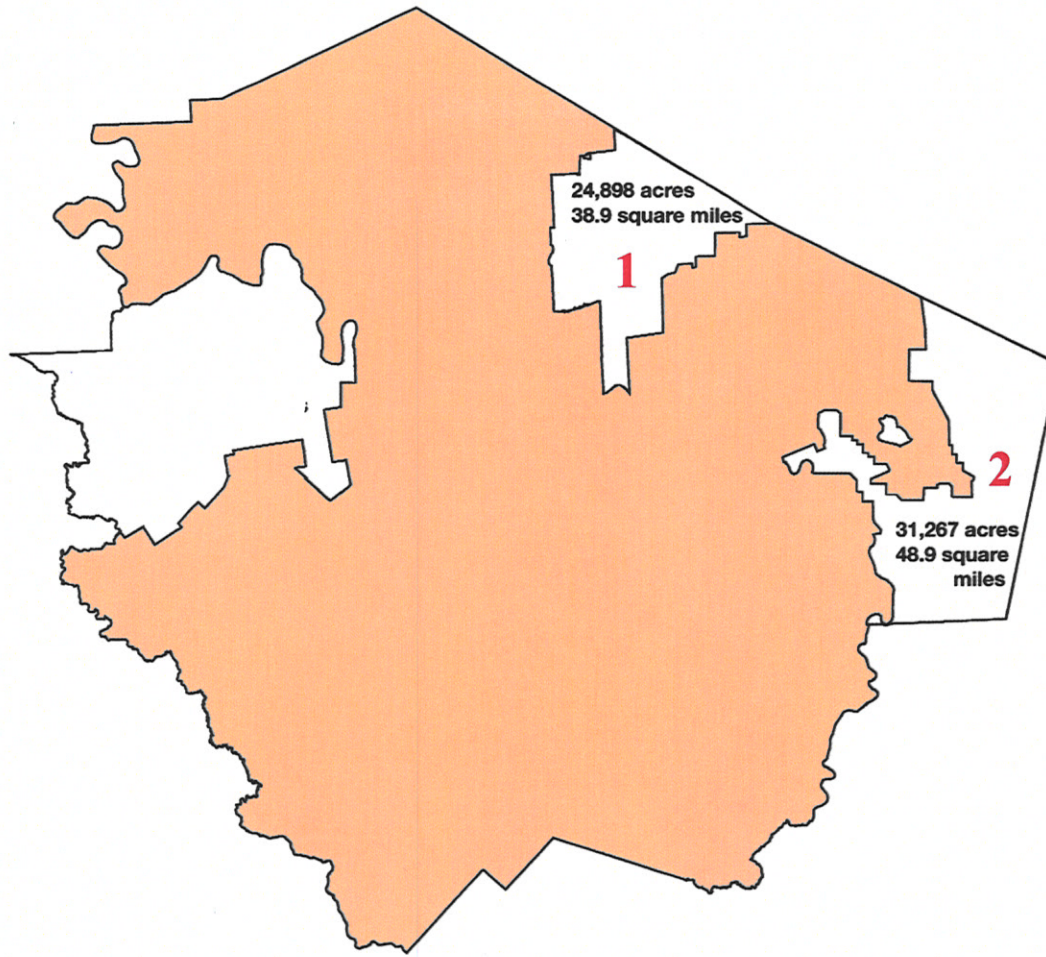
Sincerely,

Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
Chancellor

cc: Ashley Smith, HCC General Counsel
Remmele Young, Vice Chancellor, Public Information, Communications & External Affairs



Exhibit 1: Houston Community College System's existing Service Area in relation to adjoining community colleges



Areas 1 and 2:
The part of the Fort Bend Independent School District in Fort Bend County that is not located in the incorporated area and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Sugar Land located in Fort Bend County as it existed on January 1, 2021

Exhibit 2: Description of FBISD Unassigned Service Areas

	Unassigned	Area 1	Area 2	Fort Bend County
Total Population		150,150	117,690	822,779
Hispanic		36,934 (24.6%)	31,447 (26.7%)	198,580 (24.1%)
Non-Hispanic White		27,496 (18.3%)	18,707 (15.9%)	24,726 (29.6%)
Non-Hispanic Black		36,218 (24.1%)	44,980 (38.2%)	167,964 (20.4%)
Non-Hispanic Asian		44,653 (29.7%)	18,807 (16.0%)	181,522 (22.1%)
Non-Hispanic Other		4849 (3.2%)	3749 (3.2%)	30,987 (3.8%)
Total Housing Units		46,454	37,831	277,910
Occupied Housing Units		44,465	35,899	263,128
Vacant Housing Units		1989	1932	14,782
In Group Quarters		2167	28	4682
In Adult Correctional Units		2167	0	2923

Source: PL 94-171 Census of Populatoin and Housing, 2020

Exhibit 3: Population and Demographic data from 2020 Census for Unassigned FBISD Areas

TXCCCF Final Recommendations

1. State Funding for Outcomes

\$430M

Recommendation 1.1: Develop a modern community college finance model that distributes the majority of state funding based on **measurable outcomes** aligned with regional and state workforce needs and state goals for *Building a Talent Strong Texas*.

This new outcomes-based formula should be dynamic, with adjustments through an annual settle-up process. Funding levels should be based on individual colleges' current outcomes with specified fixed dollar amounts for:

- Credentials of value, including degrees, certificates, and other credentials from credit and non-credit programs that equip Texas students for continued learning and greater earnings in the state economy;
- Credentials of value awarded in high-demand fields;
- Students who transfer to four-year universities; and
- **Students who complete a sequence of dual credit courses that apply towards academic and workforce program requirements.**

Recommendation 1.2: Ensure community colleges across Texas can access foundational levels of funding for **instruction and operations** through a state-funded guaranteed yield for colleges with low taxable valuations.

tacc.org



TXCCCF Final Recommendations

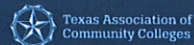
2. Affordability for Students

\$170M

Recommendation 2.1: Increase funding for **Texas Educational Opportunity Grants (TEOG)** and link state performance measures for eligible students served through TEOG at two-year institutions and TEXAS Grants at universities to establish a state goal of supporting at least 70 percent of qualified low-income college students in pursuing postsecondary credentials of value at public two- and four-year institutions. The TEOG program should also be restructured to provide colleges greater flexibility in meeting the needs of non-traditional students pursuing a wide variety of credentials of value, including non-credit and short-term programs.

Recommendation 2.2: Provide financial aid through colleges to cover tuition and required fees in dual credit courses for economically disadvantaged students. This new targeted **financial aid for dual credit** should be administered by THECB, with support from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), for dual credit courses that apply towards academic or workforce education program requirements. It should also incorporate a **maximum tuition** rate for dual credit courses set annually by THECB to help ensure equitable access for high school students across the state to dual credit courses.

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TXCCCF Final Recommendations

2. Affordability for Students

Recommendation 2.3: Expand partnerships among colleges and private employers for **paid work-based learning** opportunities, including work-study, apprenticeships, and internships related to students' programs of study, utilizing the work-based learning strategic framework developed by the Governor's Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative. Work-based learning is a proven strategy to provide financial support while giving students opportunities to apply and develop skills through real work experiences in industry settings. The state should leverage existing federal funding and provide targeted state support for programs developed in partnership with employers and offered through colleges to expand paid work-based learning.

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TXCCCF Final Recommendations

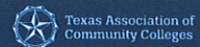
3. Investments in College Capacity

\$50M

Recommendation 3.1: Provide one-time **seed grants for programs in high-demand fields** to support community colleges in rapidly standing up or expanding programs to meet regional and state workforce needs. These grants would be administered through THECB in consultation with the Texas Workforce Commission. Drawing on insights from initial implementation of the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) program, the state should give priority to short-term workforce programs developed in partnership with employers.

Recommendation 3.2: Support and facilitate **shared services** and stronger inter-institutional partnerships. THECB should facilitate shared services to enable individual colleges to improve operational efficiency and expand the range of academic and workforce programs they offer. These shared services might include support for inter-institutional partnerships, master service agreements, and state technology infrastructure, along with related feasibility studies. For example, institutions across the state should be able to leverage other institutions' online courses so students can stack courses, credits, and credentials to earn degrees, certificates, and short-term workforce credentials that smaller colleges would be unable to offer on their own.

tacc.org



TXCCCF Final Recommendations

3. Investments in College Capacity

Recommendation 3.3: Update state policies, and build upon the recent work by individual colleges, to help community colleges across the state provide high-quality non-credit credential programs that are **convertible and stackable** with credit-bearing programs. A state crosswalk of non-credit to credit courses and programs will improve transferability of workforce education courses across institutions and throughout students' pathways, from high school dual credit programs through pathways for adult learners to support ongoing reskilling, upskilling, and career advancement. This state crosswalk could also facilitate and improve the mobility of credit awarded for students' prior work experience. Projects already underway through the Governor's Tri-agency Workforce Initiative to clarify and streamline career pathways should be considered in these specifications of stackable credentials.

Exhibit C
Sample Letter of Support
[Community College Letterhead]

[insert date]

Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
Chancellor
Houston Community College System
3100 Main St.
Houston, Texas 77002

RE: Designation of unassigned college service areas in Fort Bend County to HCC college service area

Dear Dr. Maldonado,

I am writing to express Wharton County Junior College's support of Houston Community College District's (HCC) proposed designation of certain unassigned college service areas in Fort Bend County for inclusion in HCC's state legislated service area boundaries. You have represented that these areas are not within the service area of any Texas community college (*i.e.*, "the territory within the boundaries of the taxing district of a junior college district"). Notably, HCC has been providing dual credit instruction to FBISD students who reside in these two areas for many years.

HCC's efforts importantly align the with legislative intent of, [S.B. 397](#) (by Ratliff, 74R), which is to avoid duplication of services by establishing delineated community college service areas. This proposed legislative action, if approved, will accomplish this objective. Without reservation, I support HCC's proposed service area expansion request that concerns three defined areas located within FBISD boundaries.

Sincerely,

[Insert Name]
[Title]

Exhibit C
Sample Letter of Support
[Community College Letterhead]

[insert date]

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Chancellor
Houston Community College System
3100 Main St.
Houston, Texas 77002

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