

2025 - 2026

Program Guidelines

Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST)



**Texas Higher
Education**
COORDINATING BOARD

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Financial Aid for Swift Transfer Program

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Program Guidelines are intended to support institutions by highlighting requirements that appear in the Texas Education Code (TEC) and in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). When administering this program, institutions should always refer to the relevant statutes and rules. The information in this document is to be used solely as a resource and does not override the statute or rules for this program. Additional program resources can be found on the [FAST webpage](#).

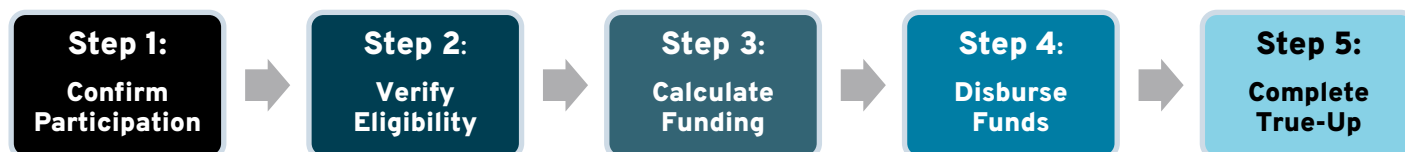
Program Authority and Purpose ([TAC Section 13.500](#))

The Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program is authorized by [TEC, Title 2, Section 28.0095](#) and [TEC Section 48.308](#). Rules for administering the program can be found in [TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter Q](#). The purpose of the FAST Program is to provide participating public institutions of higher education with funding to support their ability to allow educationally disadvantaged students to enroll in dual credit coursework at no cost to the student.

FAST Process Flow

FAST funding will only be disbursed to eligible *institutions* for eligible *students* taking eligible *dual credit courses*.

The THECB uses various data sources from participating institutions and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to determine the disbursement amount of FAST funding the institution will receive each fall, spring, and summer semester. The steps below outline the FAST Process Flow to demonstrate the overarching concepts for the program, which are further clarified throughout these guidelines.



Step 1: Confirm Participation

Eligible Institutions ([TAC Section 13.502](#))

All public institutions of higher education (IHEs), as defined by [TEC Section 61.003\(8\)](#), are eligible to participate in the FAST program. Eligible institutions must enter into a Program Participation Agreement with the THECB before being approved to participate in the program.

Step 2: Verify Eligibility

Eligible Students ([TAC Section 13.503](#))

Participating institutions determine student eligibility for FAST based on information provided by the THECB and TEA along with specific enrollment criteria.

To be eligible for the FAST program, a student must meet all three of the following criteria:

- 1) Has been **educationally disadvantaged** at any time during the four school years before enrollment in the dual credit course for the current academic year.
- 2) Is enrolled in and eligible for Foundation School Program funding at a **high school in a Texas school district or charter school** under the rules of the Texas Education Agency.
- 3) Is enrolled in a **dual credit course** at a participating institution of higher education that has a dual credit agreement with the student's school district (see [TAC Section 4.84](#)).

If an institution determines a student meets all eligibility criteria, the student must incur no cost for their enrollment in dual credit courses, including tuition, books, fees, and other educational materials (e.g., cost of a computer, internet access, other online coursework costs, etc.).

Participating institutions may stipulate the responsibility for non-tuition expenses, such as fees, books, supplies, or professional development costs in the dual credit agreement with school districts or charter schools. However, tuition cannot be charged to a school district or charter school for dual credit coursework taken by FAST-eligible students.

Dual credit students attending high school in a school district or charter school in Texas who are not eligible for FAST can be charged tuition and other course costs, but the tuition charged cannot exceed the [FAST Tuition Rate](#).

Each of the eligibility criteria is explored in more detail in [Subsections 1-3](#).

Additional Information

Other Charges:

While a participating institution must ensure that an eligible student incurs no cost for their enrollment in any dual credit course at the institution, certain charges or expenses would not fall within the requirement. Fines and penalties, such as parking fines, library fines, fines for damage to institutional property, etc., are not considered mandatory course-related expenses.

Student-Supplied Materials:

If the institution or school has made a no-cost approach for these materials available and clearly documented with the student how to pursue the no-cost approach, then a cost incurred when a student decides not to use the no-cost approach would not be considered a mandatory course-related expense. As such, the cost would not fall within the requirement that a participating institution must ensure that an eligible student incurs no cost for their enrollment in any dual credit course at the institution.

Repeated Coursework:

FAST funding can be paid to an institution for a student retaking an eligible dual credit course that they previously failed. This includes scenarios where the institution waived tuition the first time the student took the class.

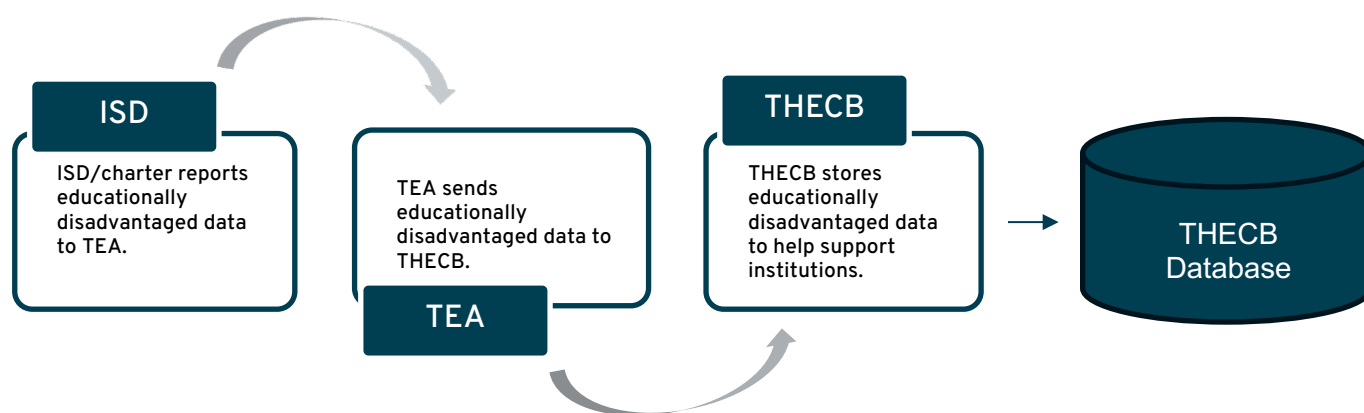
1) Educationally Disadvantaged Status

A student must have been “educationally disadvantaged” at any time during the four school years before enrollment in the dual credit course for the current academic year, as well as meet all other FAST eligibility criteria.

A student is considered educationally disadvantaged, as defined by the [TEC Section 5.001\(4\)](#), if they qualify for participation in the National School Lunch Program.

The THECB established a process in collaboration with the TEA that requires institutions to upload a roster file to confirm a student's educationally disadvantaged status based on data submitted by the independent school district (ISD)/charter to TEA.

Educationally Disadvantaged Data Flow



An institution will need to verify a student’s educationally disadvantaged status directly through the THECB **each academic year** since the status could change based on a four-year lookback period.

Below is a chart to illustrate this concept of how a student’s status can change from year to year.

Educationally Disadvantaged 4-Year Lookback Chart							
Key:		✔ Reported Educationally Disadvantaged to TEA			✖ Not Reported Educationally Disadvantaged to TEA		
Preceding 4 Academic School Years					2025-2026	Considered Educationally Disadvantaged 2025-26 (Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Summer 2026)	Considered Educationally Disadvantaged 2026-27 (Fall 2026, Spring 2027, Summer 2027)
2021-22		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25			
1	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	Yes	Yes
2	✖	✖	✖	✔	✔	Yes	Yes
3	✔	✔	✔	✔	✖	Yes	Yes
4	✔	✖	✖	✖	✖	Yes	No
5	✖	✖	✔	✖	✖	Yes	Yes
6	✖	✖	✖	✖	✔	No	Yes

Line 4: Student would be considered “educationally disadvantaged” for 2025-2026 but later deemed ineligible for FAST the following year, based on the four-year look back.

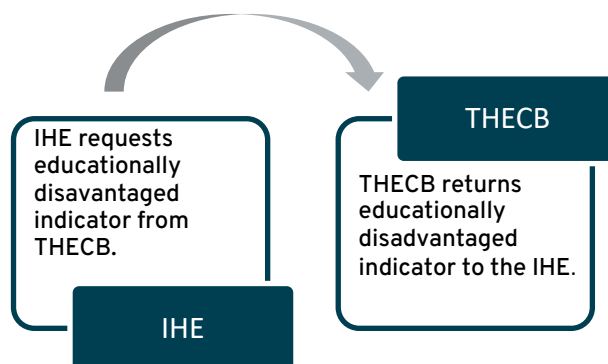
Line 6: Student would not be considered “educationally disadvantaged” for the current 2025-2026 school year but later becomes eligible for FAST consideration (if other criteria are met) the next year.

Educationally Disadvantaged Roster Process

Participating institutions are required to upload a roster file each semester to the THECB to determine the educationally disadvantaged status of students enrolled in dual credit courses. The institution will receive a response indicator which confirms if students met the "educationally disadvantaged" eligibility requirement during the four school years before the academic year in which the student is enrolled in a dual credit course.

Participating institutions will be notified by the THECB each semester to confirm when educationally disadvantaged roster files can be uploaded through the [MOVEit](#) platform along with applicable deadline information.

For questions on the roster process, email fastreport@highered.texas.gov.



2) Eligible High Schools

A student must be enrolled in a Texas public high school or open-enrollment charter school and be eligible for Foundation School Program funding under the TEA's guidelines. Students enrolled in private high schools, private charter schools, private online high school curriculum, or who are homeschooled are **not** eligible for the FAST program.

3) Dual Credit Courses ([TAC Section 13.503](#)) and ([TAC Section 4.84](#))

A student must be enrolled in a dual credit course at a participating institution that has entered into a Dual Credit Agreement with the student's school district or charter school.

To be considered a dual credit course for FAST purposes, a course must be offered pursuant to an institutional agreement described by [TAC Section 4.84](#). It also must either be offered for joint high school and junior college credit under [TEC Section 130.008](#) or be at least one of the following:

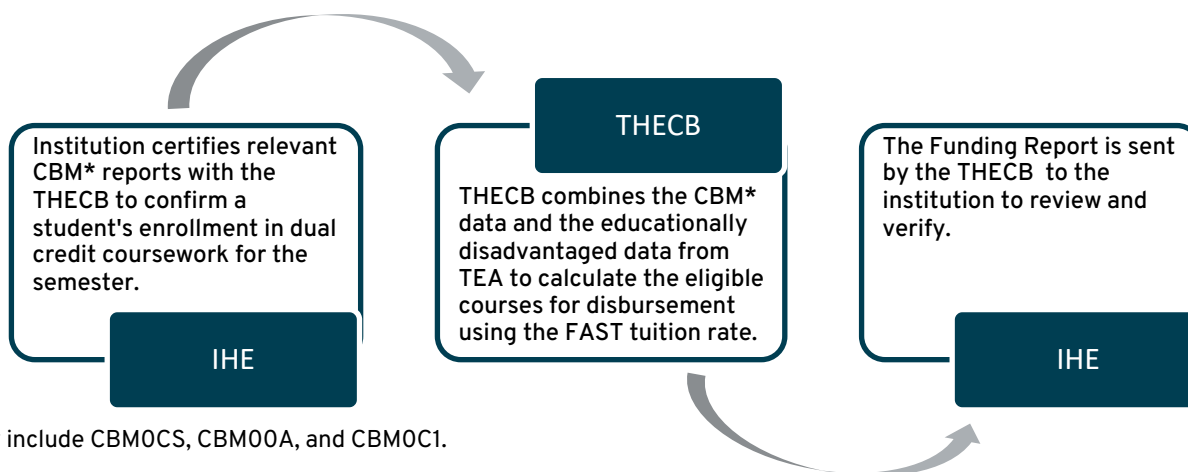
- A career and technical education course, as defined in [TAC Section 4.83](#)
- A course that satisfies a foreign language requirement at an institution of higher education
- A course that satisfies core curriculum requirement, as described by [TEC Section 61.821](#)
- A course that satisfies field of study curriculum requirement, as described by [TEC Section 61.823](#)

Note: Dual credit coursework can be taken during the summer if an agreement for the courses exists between the institution and ISD/charter for this timeframe. In addition, courses taken by a student attending an Early College High School or who are taking continuing education coursework can also be funded if they meet all FAST eligibility criteria and an agreement specifies the eligible courses.

Step 3: Calculate Funding

Each semester, the THECB will create a Funding Report for each eligible institution based on certified enrollment data (provided through CBM*) and educationally disadvantaged student data (provided by TEA). The **Funding Report** calculates a funding amount using the current FAST tuition rate multiplied by the total number of semester credit hours (SCHs), or equivalent, identified for enrolled educationally disadvantaged students taking dual credit coursework during the semester. THECB will distribute the Funding Report, containing the calculated funding amount, through MOVEit to participating institutions for review and verification.

FAST Funding Report Flow



*This may include CBM0CS, CBM00A, and CBM0C1.

FAST Tuition Rate ([TAC Section 13.504](#))

The FAST tuition rate is announced no later than the final day of January each year, with the new rate taking effect at the start of the fall semester in the upcoming fiscal year (FY).

FY 2026 (2025-2026) Tuition Rate	
\$58.52	per semester credit hour (or equivalent).

The FAST tuition rate serves two key purposes:

1. **Funding Rate:** Participating institutions will receive funding equivalent to the FAST tuition rate for each semester credit hour (or its equivalent) of dual credit coursework taken by an eligible student.
2. **Maximum Tuition Rate:** Participating institutions that have agreements with a public high school or an open charter school may not charge a per-credit hour tuition rate higher than the FAST tuition rate to any student attending high school in a Texas school district or charter school for eligible dual credit courses. Institutions may opt to charge a lower tuition rate for any or all dual credit coursework without affecting the funding rate. The institution can charge tuition and other course charges, such as fees, books, or supplies for dual credit courses taken by students attending private high schools or who are home schooled and is not obligated to use the FAST tuition rate maximum for these students.

Note: For a continuing education (CE) course, not fewer than 16 contact hours are equivalent to one semester credit hour (see [TAC Section 4.84\(11\)](#)).

FAST Disbursement Formula ([TAC Section 13.505](#))

The chart below breaks down the components of the funding formula to demonstrate the disbursement amount calculation.

$$\text{FAST Tuition Rate} \times (\text{SCH for semester}) = \text{Eligible FAST Funding}$$

Examples	Eligible students taking eligible coursework	Total SCHs	FAST Tuition Rate (FY 2026)	Semester FAST funding for participating institution
Institution A	24 eligible students each took 3 SCHs in fall semester	72 SCHs total	\$58.52	\$ 4,213.44
Institution B	40 eligible students each took 12 SCHs in spring semester	480 SCHs total	\$58.52	\$ 28,089.60
Institution C	15 eligible students each took 48 contact hours (CE course) in summer semester*	45 SCHs total	\$58.52	\$ 2,633.40

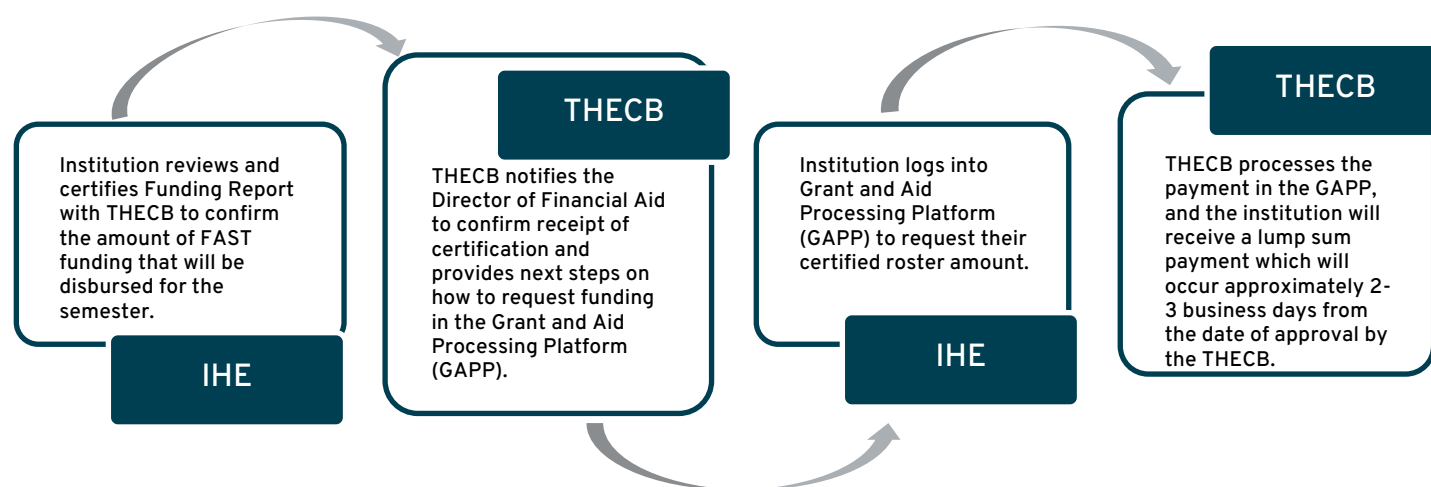
*With conversion equivalent: (1 SCH = 16 contact hours)

Step 4: Disburse Funds

The THECB will disburse funds to each participating institution for the fall, spring, and summer semesters after the certification of the Funding Report is complete. When a semester includes multiple enrollment periods (e.g., Summer 1 and Summer 2 sessions), the THECB will combine these periods.

Each disbursement will be calculated by multiplying the FAST Tuition Rate for the relevant semester by the number of semester credit hours (or equivalent) for dual credit courses taken by enrolled eligible students. There is no limit on how many eligible courses are funded by the FAST program.

Note: FAST funding does not cover the full cost of educating every FAST-eligible student. The program is designed as a funding source available for public institutions to use, in addition to other funding sources, to provide dual credit courses at no cost to eligible FAST students.



Step 5: Complete True-Up

The "true-up" process is a method used to reconcile high school attendance data with the funding disbursed to institutions, ensuring accuracy and proper allocation of funds. After the academic year ends, TEA will provide the THECB high school student-level attendance data for the full school year. The THECB will review all eligible students included in the funding calculation for the applicable year to confirm that they were attending high school during their dual credit enrollment period. If any student is found to be ineligible during this process, the THECB will calculate the amount of funding the institution received for that student. The THECB will reduce the institution's subsequent FAST disbursement by the amount calculated. If an institution does not participate in FAST for the subsequent year, the ineligible funds must be returned to the THECB (see [TAC Section 13.505](#)).

New Reporting

The THECB sets the reporting requirements for Texas public community colleges' annual financial reports. FAST funds should be reported in the Annual Financial Report as non-operating revenue and not as a grant that would be reported on the Schedule of Expenditures of State Awards. For additional guidance, visit the [Financial Documents webpage](#) and review the [FY 2024 Annual Financial Report Manual Publication Memo](#).

For the remaining public institutions of higher education, the Texas Comptroller sets the annual financial report requirements. More information can be found on their [Annual Financial Reports webpage](#).

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions

1. May a participating institution charge different tuition rates for in-district and out-of-district students when they are enrolled in dual credit coursework.

Yes. The institution may charge different tuition rates for in-district and out-of-district students. However, neither the in-district nor the out-of-district tuition rate may exceed the maximum tuition rate established in [TAC Section 13.504](#).

2. Would FAST funding be paid to a college for an eligible student to re-take a dual credit course that they previously took and failed?

The statute creating the FAST program and the rules for the FAST program do not limit FAST funding based on a student having previously failed a course.

3. Can FAST funding be used to pay for a student to re-take a dual credit course that they previously failed where the college had waived tuition the first time the student took the class?

The statute creating the FAST program and the rules for the FAST program do not limit FAST funding based on a student having previously failed a course.

4. If an institution does not identify a student as being eligible for the FAST program until after the student has already incurred a cost for an eligible dual credit course, is the institution still responsible for ensuring the student incurs no cost for their enrollment in the course?

An institution must comply with [TAC Section 13.502\(c\)](#), which states, “a participating institution must ensure that an eligible student incurs no cost for their enrollment in any dual credit course at the institution. This includes, but is not limited to, tuition, fees, books, supplies, or other course-related expenses.” Institutions should confer with their legal counsel on how the institution will meet this requirement.

5. Are institutions participating in the FAST program exempt from complying with [TAC Section 21.4](#), which requires that a student pay their tuition, or have made arrangements to pay their tuition via an installment plan or financial aid, by the census date to be counted for formula funding?

There is currently no exemption from meeting the requirements under [TAC Section 21.4](#). However, if the institution has determined that the student is eligible to participate in the FAST program prior to the census date, then Rule 21.4 would not apply to that student.

6. If an institution waived course charges for a student in anticipation that the student would be eligible through the FAST program to participate in the course at no cost, can the institution collect tuition or other charges from the student for the course if the institution later determines that the student did not meet the FAST eligibility requirements?

If the institution covered through any means (e.g., waived, exempted, credited, reversed, etc.) tuition or other course charges, such as fees, books, or supplies for dual credit courses for a student who the institution later determined was “ineligible” for the FAST program there would be no prohibition against collection of those tuition or charges in the agency’s rules.

7. Can a community college opt-out on a school district by school district approach?

No. Once a community college district chooses to participate in the FAST program, it must meet the requirements for participation for every school district in which an institutional agreement for dual credit has been agreed upon, as outlined in [TAC Section 4.84](#).

8. If the institution or school has a mechanism to provide books, supplies, or other course-related materials at no cost to an eligible student (e.g., the book is lent to the student for the semester, it is available via Open Educational Resources (OER), etc.), but the student decides to purchase the item for themselves, is the institution required to cover the cost of that purchase for an eligible student based on the “no-cost” provision of the program?

If the institution or school has made a no-cost approach for these materials available and clearly documented with the student how to pursue the no-cost approach, then a cost incurred when a student decides not to use the no cost approach would not be considered a mandatory course-related expense. As such, the cost would not fall within the requirement that a participating institution must ensure that an eligible student incurs no cost for their enrollment in any dual credit course at the institution.

Appendix 2: Quick References

Contact Information	
By phone: (844) 792-2640	
Program Rules and Statutes	
Texas Program Statutes	Texas Education Code TEC, Title 2, Section 28.0095 and TEC Section 48.308 TEC, Title 3, Section 130.008
Texas Program Rules	Texas Administrative Code TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter Q TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D
Websites, Portals, and Guides	
General program information for institutions Dedicated FAST Program page FAST Frequently Asked Questions page	Student Financial Aid Programs Information Webpage FAST Program Webpage
General college enrollment and financial aid information for students	My Texas Future
Grant and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP) - Institutions can log into the GAPP to access certain state financial aid programs	GAPP Login GAPP Help Desk GAPP Account Creation Instructions [PDF]
Secure file transfer and processing portal	MOVEit Portal
Forms and Instructions	
Instructions for returning funds electronically	Electronic Funds Transfer Information [PDF]