

Appendix 1

Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST)

Overview

The FAST program provides funding to colleges and other public institutions so they can offer dual credit courses to educationally disadvantaged students at no cost to these students. **This program may require partnership investments by school districts to cover costs for instructional materials, and course fees so that the program can be offered where the student is not required to pay.**

The Texas Education Code {TEC} defines "educationally disadvantaged" as those students eligible for the national.free/reduced-price lunch program. The FAST program includes a four-year "look-back" for student eligibility.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board {THECB} will adopt a maximum tuition rate for dual credit courses that is a condition of an institution's participation in the FAST program. Institutions that elect to participate in the FAST program will receive an allotment of funding equal to the FAST tuition rate for each semester credit hour of dual credit coursework taken by an eligible student. Note that the FAST tuition rate is the maximum tuition rate that a participating institution may charge for all dual credit students in any dual credit course.

Student Eligibility

Students are "eligible students" under the FAST program if they (1) are enrolled in an eligible dual credit course at a public school district or charter school offered either at their school or the college, and (2) were qualified for .free/reduced-price lunch in any of the four school years before enrolling in the dual credit course.

By statute, the FAST program requires that eligible students at participating institutions incur no cost for their dual credit coursework. An eligible student will not pay tuition and fees for an eligible dual credit course. Books, supplies, and other course materials must also be provided at no cost to an eligible student.

There is no limit to the number of courses or semester credit hours that a FAST-eligible student can take. As long as the course and institution meet eligibility requirements (including that the courses are offered at no cost to the student and do not exceed the FAST rate), students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch will be eligible for free dual credit courses under FAST

The THECB is in discussions with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) regarding development of a system in which institutions would be able to upload a file of students enrolled in dual credit courses and receive a response indicating which students met the FAST eligibility requirements in any of the four school years before enrolling in the dual credit course. This new system will serve to fulfill the requirements of the TEC, allowing school districts and charter schools to complete their required reporting/or FAST via TEA, rather than directly to institutions of higher education.

FAST Tuition Rate

The FAST tuition rate adopted by the THECB serves two purposes:

Funding rate: Participating institutions will receive an allotment of funding equal to the FAST tuition rate for each semester credit hour of dual credit coursework taken by an eligible student.

FAST Funding Disbursement

The THECB intends to match TVCC reporting of dual credit enrollment with TEA 's data regarding educationally disadvantaged students to generate a report of student enrollment eligible for FAST funding. The THECB would provide the report to institutions for their review and certification, after which THECB would disburse funding to the institution.

Dual Credit Course Eligibility

Courses eligible for FAST funding are those offered through either TEC, Section 130.008, Courses for Joint High School and Junior College Credit (see Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, Rules 4.81-4.85), or other courses offered by a public institution of higher education for which a high school student may earn credit. By statute, the courses must also satisfy at least one of the following:

- A requirement necessary to obtain an associate degree or an industry-recognized credential or certificate (using the definition of industry-recognized credential or certificate that is established for other parts of House Bill 8)
- A foreign language requirement at an institution of higher education
- A core curriculum requirement
- A field of study requirement

<rule>

SUBCHAPTER 0. FINANCIAL AID FOR SWIFT TRANSFER (FAST) PROGRAM.

§13.500. Authority and Purpose.

(a) Unless otherwise noted in a section, the authority for these provisions is provided by Texas Education Code, §§28.0095 and 48.308.

(b) This subchapter establishes rules relating to the administration of the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program. The program provides institutions with funding to support their ability to allow educationally disadvantaged students to enroll in dual credit coursework at no cost to the student.

§13.501. Definitions.

In addition to the words and terms defined in Texas Administrative Code, §13.1 of this chapter (relating to Definitions) the following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. In the event of conflict, the definitions in this subchapter shall control.

(1) Charter School--a public charter school authorized to operate under Texas Education Code, Chapter 12.

(2) Dual Credit Course--a course offered for joint high school and junior college credit under Texas Education Code, §130.008, or another course offered by an institution of higher education, for which a high school student may earn credit toward satisfaction of:

(A) a requirement necessary to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate or an associate degree;

(B) a foreign language requirement at an institution of higher education;

(C) a requirement in the core curriculum, as that term is defined by Texas Education Code, §61.821, at an institution of higher education; or

(D) a requirement in a field of study curriculum developed by the coordinating board under Texas Education Code, §61.823.

(3) Educationally disadvantaged--as defined in Texas Education Code, §5.001(4), eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program.

(4) Program--the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program.

§13.502. Eligible Institution.

(a) Any institution of higher education, as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003, is eligible to participate in the Program.

(b) A participating institution may not charge students attending high school in a Texas school district or charter school tuition for dual credit courses in excess of the tuition rate outlined in §13.504 of this subchapter (relating to FAST Tuition).

(c) 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. This subsection does not prohibit a participating institution from charging a school district for course-related expenses, other than tuition, for an eligible student.

(d) Agreement. Each eligible institution must enter into an agreement with the Coordinating Board, the terms of which shall be prescribed by the Commissioner prior to being approved to participate in the program.

§13.503. Eligible Students.

(a) A student is eligible to enroll at no cost to the student in a dual credit course under the program if the student:

(1) 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;

(2) is enrolled in a dual credit course at a participating institution of higher education; and

(3) was educationally disadvantaged at any time during the four school years preceding the student's enrollment in the dual credit course described by paragraph (2) of this subsection, as certified to the institution by the eligible student's school district or charter school, or other means authorized by rule.

(b) A school district's or charter school's notice to the institution regarding a student's status as educationally disadvantaged shall occur through the school district's or charter school's notice to the Texas Education Agency, unless otherwise provided by rule.

§13.504. FAST Tuition.

The maximum tuition rate prescribed for a dual credit course through this program is \$56.87 per semester credit hour in the 2024-2025 academic year.

§13.505. FAST Funding Formula.

(a) Frequency of Disbursements. The Coordinating Board will provide each participating institution with a disbursement for each fall, spring, and summer semester upon the certification of the institution's eligible enrollments. The Coordinating Board will combine enrollment periods under this subsection when a semester includes more than one enrollment period (for example, a Summer 1 and a Summer 2 session).

(b) Disbursement Calculation. Each disbursement will equal the amount outlined in §13.504 of this subchapter (relating to FAST Tuition) for the relevant semester multiplied by the number of semester credit hours in which students who met the eligibility criteria in §13.503 of this subchapter (relating to Eligible Students) were enrolled in dual credit courses at the institution for the relevant semester.

(c) Data Sources. The source of data for the disbursement calculation will be the CBM0CS certified by the institution for the relevant semester, combined with data regarding educationally disadvantaged students, as reported by Texas Education Agency, unless otherwise provided by rule.

(d) Verification of Data. Board staff will share each semester's calculation with the participating institution for comment and verification prior to disbursement. The institution will be given ten business days, beginning the day of the notice's distribution, and excluding State holidays, to confirm that the calculation accurately reflects the data they submitted or to advise Board staff of any inaccuracies.

§13.506. Overallocation.

Funding provided to an institution under this subchapter shall be subject to subchapter R, of this chapter (relating to State Public Junior College Finance Program Reporting, Audit, and Overallocation).

Dual Credit MOU Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST)

To the extent that the FAST program applies, language below replaces in whole the section XVIII Funding.

1. The cost of tuition and fees will be based on the current Trinity Valley Community College tuition and fee schedule for eligible dual credit courses.
2. Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST)
Trinity Valley Community College and the ISD enter into an agreement to participate in the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program in anticipation of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) adopting new rules on an emergency basis in **Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter Q, §§13.500 -13.506, concerning Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program.** (Attached as Appendix IA).

A. ISD Responsibilities:

1. Provide TVCC with a list of all Dual Credit Students with TSDS numbers, social security numbers, Date of Birth and Fast eligibility.
2. Maintain records to justify certification of eligible students.
3. Provide certification of eligible students to the Texas Education Agency.
4. No costs can be passed to any FAST eligible student

B. College Responsibility:

1. Collaborate with the school district on identifying FAST-Eligible students.
2. No costs can be passed to any FAST eligible student, with the exception of fines.
3. Trinity Valley Community College will let the ISD know if a student reported as FAST eligible was declined by the THECB.

C. For the 2025-2026 school year (Fall 2025 through summer 2026)

1. TVCC will continue to waive all tuition, general fees and textbook costs for FAST students with the exception of equipment needed for workforce programs to include but not be limited to cosmetology kits and welding equipment.
2. This will be re-evaluated and can be adjusted yearly.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCORRECTLY REPORTED STUDENTS

The Texas Education Agency will provide the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board a list of students who have been listed as Educationally Disadvantaged. Should the student be Educationally Disadvantaged by appearing on this list in any of the four years prior to enrolling in their first dual credit course, the student is an eligible student for the FAST Program.

Trinity Valley Community College will access this list of students and will share with the District if a student reported by the District is denied FAST status by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Should the State and/or Trinity Valley Community College be unable to validate that the student is eligible for the FAST program when the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board matches for Educationally Disadvantaged students based upon the school district's free- and reduced- lunch reporting to the Texas Education Agency, the District shall be responsible for the balance of tuition, fees, course fees, and course materials access fees that would have been charged to the student because the student has been labeled a non-FAST student.