

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 the current school year along with 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 the current year or any of the four school years before enrolling in the dual credit course. The student must have submitted the appropriate information to the ISD and the ISD must have correctly reported the student's FAST status on their PEIMS report.

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 IHE partner will upload a file of students enrolled in dual credit courses. THECB, working with TEA will return a list to the IHE indicating which students met the FAST eligibility requirements in the current year or any of the four school years before enrolling in the dual credit course.

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 matches 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 provides 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

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 2026-2027 school year (Fall 2026 through Summer 2027), 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. This will be re-evaluated 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 the current year or 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, TVCC shall not be responsible for the balance of tuition, fees, course fees, and course materials access fees that are now charged to the student because the student has been labeled a non-FAST student.

Signature on the MOU indicated acceptance of this Appendix.