

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

STATE PROGRAM SUPPORT FORMULA FUNDING



Calling for full funding of the appropriations formula for Texas higher education institutions.

THE CHALLENGE

In the previous legislative session, budget constraints prevented adjustments in the higher education funding formula to account for enrollment growth. This is a significant issue for UTSA, as it is for other growing universities in Texas. UTSA's rapidly growing enrollment is integral to the strategic vision for the university in its efforts to increase access and opportunities for more Texas students. Without an additional investment in formula funding, it will be challenging for Texas institutions to support the goals outlined in The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 6x30TX plan.

OVERVIEW

From 2008-2018, UTSA's student headcount grew by 8%, while the average per student appropriation only increased by 3%. UTSA's average per student appropriation is well below the statewide average. An adjusted higher education funding formula that recognizes institutional growth and inflation rates is critical to UTSA's trajectory as a nationally recognized research university and model for student success.

THE IMPACT

Increasing legislative investment to address enrollment growth and inflation will directly support UTSA's ability to pursue its strategic vision as a Hispanic-thriving institution that serves as an exemplar for student success, urban engagement and continuous improvement. Strategic enrollment planning at UTSA is data-informed process, focused on pursuing the right mix of students in specific disciplines aligned to workforce needs. In tandem with these strategies, state appropriations that properly fund the needs of students will accelerate UTSA's ability to act as a prosperity engine for Texas.

GRADUATION BONUS

During the last legislative session, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board proposed a Graduation Bonus formula whereby institutions would be rewarded for graduating more students, particularly those considered at-risk. A Graduation Bonus would have enormously positive impact, provided that **it is set up as a new formula, outside and separate** from the existing operations formula.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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