

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF **FORMULA FUNDING**

Continued support for Texas colleges and universities that demonstrate success in providing quality education

OVERVIEW

UTSA is an engine of social and economic prosperity, graduating 34,570 students in the last five years. While the university's head count has increased ~19% over the last five years, UTSA's state appropriation per full-time equivalent students has decreased by 7% and is \$700 under the state 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 CHALLENGE

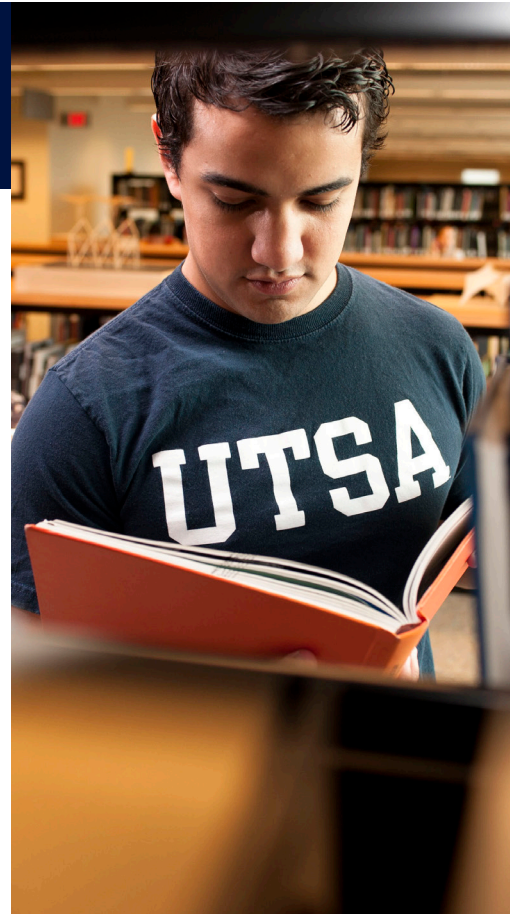
UTSA has strategically leveraged state investments in research and formula funding to become one of the fastest growing emerging research institutions in the state. These efforts have helped add to our state's economic prosperity as UTSA graduates contribute to the workforce. But in order for UTSA to continue on its academic trajectory and achieve the goals outlined in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's *Building a Talent Strong Texas* plan, additional resources are needed.

THE IMPACT

Increasing legislative investment through formula funding directly supports Texas students by keeping tuition low, which in turn supports Texas families by making college admission more accessible. Strategic enrollment planning at UTSA is a 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 87th legislative session, SB 1295 included a Bonus for regional universities whereby eligible institutions would be awarded \$1,000 for graduating each at-risk student. During the 87th legislative interim the General Academic Institution Formula Advisory Committee, formed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Commissioner, found providing a "\$1,000 per 'at-risk' degree is a fair and equitable methodology." A Bonus for at-risk students would have an enormously positive impact and should be uniformly applied to all Texas universities, provided it is set up as a new formula, outside and separate from the existing operations formula.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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