

High School Allotment Overview

I. Purpose

- The High School Allotment (TEC § 39.114) provides an allotment to each district in the amount of \$275 for each student in grades 9 through 12 based on average daily attendance. The estimated expenditure for the state for fiscal year 2007 is \$320,000,000 and for fiscal year 2008 is \$321,100,000.
- The High School Allotment is providing additional state aid to districts to:
 - (1) prepare underachieving students in Grades 6 through 12 for entrance into institutions of higher education,
 - (2) encourage all students in Grades 6 through 12 to pursue advanced academic opportunities,
 - (3) provide opportunities for students to take academically rigorous course work,
 - (4) align secondary and postsecondary curriculum and expectations, and
 - (5) support other promising high school completion and success initiatives in Grades 6-12 approved by the commissioner of education.
- Allotment funds may be used in grades 6-12.

II. Anecdotal Information Regarding District Use of Allotment Funds

1. To Increase Rigor
 - Tutoring or accelerated online instruction,
 - Summer programs such as summer AP readiness camps,
 - Support for co-curricular programs such as robotics clubs and Odyssey of the Mind,
 - Pre-engineering courses such as Project Lead the Way,
 - Programs to support students taking challenging courses such as AVID and AP Strategies
 - Tuition, textbooks and transportation for dual credit courses
 - Exam subsidies for AP/IB
2. To Personalized the Educational Experience
 - Advisories
 - Small learning communities
3. To Increase High School Success
 - “Newcomer Academy” to assist Limited English Proficient students with acquisition of English language and support services
 - Two-week mandatory math & science summer school for struggling students
 - Stipends for teachers to staff a 4-9pm credit recovery program
4. To Create a College-Going Culture
 - Support for dual or college credit courses including payment of tuition, books, and transportation
 - Courses to prepare students for college entrance exams (SAT and ACT)
 - Exam subsidies for SAT and ACT
 - Support for UIL forensic programs designed to
 - recruit students without plans to attend college;
 - establish college going expectations; and
 - equip with communication and critical thinking skills valuable for college success

5. To Assist with Successful Transition

- Summer program for graduating 8th graders to equip with study and other skills to succeed in high school
- “Fish Tank” to house freshman core classes in one location and increase staff providing support during the 9th grade year
- System to track graduates and use data to improve efforts to better prepare students for college and career

III. High School Allotment Data Collection 2006-2007

Purposes:

- Identify the high schools that spent high school allotment funds, how much was spent at each campus, and the characteristics of those schools
- Determine a per-pupil high school allotment expenditure per school
- Determine the incremental difference in school operating budgets potentially attributable to the high school allotment
- Determine which college readiness and high school completion/success activities were supported by schools and districts through the high school allotment, and whether these activities were new, a continuation or expansion of an existing activity, or whether allotment funds supplanted other funds
- Determine if models used to allocate high school allotment funds across campuses varied by district
- Identify schools with exceptional college readiness and high school completion/success programs funded by the high school allotment

Status of the Data Collection:

- Two data collection processes have been implemented—district-level and campus-level.
 - a. The district-level survey was administered to all districts.
 - b. The campus-level survey was administered to a stratified sample of 444 high school campuses.
- The data that were collected from districts included the following:
 - a. *Foundation School Program (FSP)* funds sent in the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years for campuses eligible for the high school allotment in 2006-2007
 - b. allowable activities supported by the district with high school allotment funds
 - c. nominations to identify districts and campuses demonstrating exceptional use of their high school allotment funds
- The data that were collected from the sampled campuses included the following:
 - a. types of activities supported through high school allotment funds in 2006-2007
 - b. the amount of dollars associated with each activity
 - c. whether the funds were used to supplement or supplant
- The district-level data collection was completed on December 31, 2007, with a 91% response rate.
- As a part of the district-level data collection effort, districts were asked to self-nominate for recognition for exceptional use of their high school allotment funds.
- Districts and campuses then were selected for recognition using procedures and criteria recommended by the High School Allotment Advisory Group.

- A complementary campus-level data collection effort is ongoing with a 54% response rate as of February 15, 2007. New email addresses were obtained for non-responding school principals with the help of the Education Service Centers (ESCs). Follow-up messages were sent to all of these schools during the week of February 11, 2008.

Timeline for Reporting:

- February 2008: Complete the campus-level data collection
- February-March 2008: Analyze district- and campus-level data
- March 1, 2008: PEIMS financial data becomes available
- April-May 2008: Analyze PEIMS and TAKS data and draft the report
- June 20, 2008: Target date for report on the use of 2006-2007 high school allotment funds