



NEWS YOU CAN USE

From our local Partners on FAFSA:

MAC Grant

Just a friendly reminder that the deadline is only a few days away on May 1. The online application can be accessed at <https://wacofoundation.org/mac>. (Waco Foundation launched a redesigned website, so old links will no longer work.)

Planning for next year

Late April or early May, I will be sending out an email to counselors to schedule FAFSA presentations and workshops for fall 2019. I know this may seem early to start scheduling dates, but it will be helpful to have our dates set for the next academic calendar because I know school schedules are always busy.

Voice your opinion on FAFSA

A few days ago, the U. S. Department of Education opened the comment period for the 2020-2021 FAFSA, which means now is the time for us to share our thoughts on the next FAFSA. The National College Access Network is collecting feedback from members. As an NCAN member, we would like to collect your input and submit your feedback to NCAN as a community, which will be able to take your voice to a larger advocacy level.

If you want to provide feedback, please email me by Wednesday, May 8 with your comments and the FAFSA question it relates to.

Federal Student Aid ID Enhancements

On March 31, Federal Student Aid implemented a few changes to the Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) that will make the process easier for students.

- If a student verified their mobile phone number, they will be able to use it as a username.
- The 18-month password limit is removed, so students and parents won't need to reset expired passwords.
- Special character requirement in the FSA ID password is no longer required.
- Students that use an email address with .edu, .K12, .pvt, .tec, or .cc will receive a message to use an email address that they will not lose upon graduation.
- Users will receive a warning message when an account is about to be locked and will be notified about the number of attempts that have been made.

FAFSA Completion Rate Concerns

Many counselors have noticed that the data on the ApplyTexas Counselor Suite and on Federal Student Aid are not accurately recording which students have completed FAFSA. This is likely due to students not selecting the high school on their FAFSA, so they are not being properly matched for data purposes. In that regard, we recognize that the FAFSA data, while federally reported, is not truly representative of all the great work that you do. The MAC Program's plan is to contact NCAN to bring awareness and potentially find a solution for the 2020-2021 FAFSA.

FAFSA Data through April 5

McLennan County	53.75%
United States	50%
Texas	47.90%

Notes:

FAFSA completion data is provided through Federal Student Aid

Senior class sizes are reported by counselors in early fall 2018

From Texas OnCourse:

The new #TXOCDaDataDive tool makes it easy to track academic #success and progress on #campus, district, region, and state levels. The easy-to-read graphs are ideal for highlighting #trends across school years to support ongoing #funding. [Check it out!](#)

[Texas OnCourse's DataDive](#) is a comprehensive source for data on all levels: campus, district, regional, and state.

Attendance, STAAR scores, college readiness assessments, graduation reports, and more are all housed in one place, in clean, easy to read graphics. With DataDive, you can:

Review and highlight CCMR progress and changes over time with colleagues and leadership, as well as with parents and guardians.

- Explain accountability, track progress, and set goals.
- Identify key areas for campus growth in college, career, and military readiness.
- See how you're doing compared to other campuses and within your district.



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

“Release of ‘13 Reasons Why’ associated with an increase in youth suicide rates”

The Netflix show “13 Reasons Why” was associated with a 28.9% increase in suicide rates among U.S. youth ages 10-17 in the month (April 2017)read more [here](#).

TEA Letter for HB 1638:

Many of you are making agreements with your Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) for the 2019-2020 school year. Some may not recall that there is a new protocol for designing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them in partnership to deliver your dual credit options. Please click [here](#) to read an important “To the Administrator Addressed” letter about HB 1638 parameters for dual credit MOUs.



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House Bill 1638: Statewide Dual Credit Goals

[PDF Version](#)

September 20, 2018

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

Subject: House Bill 1638: Statewide Dual Credit Goals

House Bill 1638 (85th Legislature, Regular Session), as codified in Texas Education Code, Section 28.200 (b-1) and (b-2), requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to collaboratively develop statewide goals for dual credit programs in Texas. These goals provide guidance to institutions of higher education (IHEs) and independent school districts (ISDs) on components that must be in place to ensure quality dual credit programs are provided to Texas high school students. These statewide goals address enrollment in and acceleration through postsecondary education, performance in college-level coursework, and strong academic outcomes.

All dual credit programs are required to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the IHE and ISD that details the terms of the partnership. HB 1638 requires that on or after September 1, 2018, any new, revised, or renewed dual credit MOU or articulation agreement must include the following:

- A description of how the goals of the dual credit program align with the statewide goals;
- A course equivalency crosswalk or other method of equating high school courses with college courses that identifies the number of credits that may be earned for each course completed through the dual credit program;
- A description of the academic supports and guidance that will be provided to students participating in the dual credit program;
- A description of the ISD and IHE respective roles and responsibilities in providing for and ensuring the quality and instructional rigor of the dual credit program; and
- A description of the sources of funding for dual credit courses offered under the program including, at a minimum, the sources of funding for tuition, transportation, and any required fees or textbooks for students participating in the dual credit program.

On or after September 1, 2018, and each subsequent year, all dual credit MOUs, regardless if new, revised, or renewed, must be posted each year to the ISDs and IHEs respective websites.

The statewide dual credit goals are as follows:

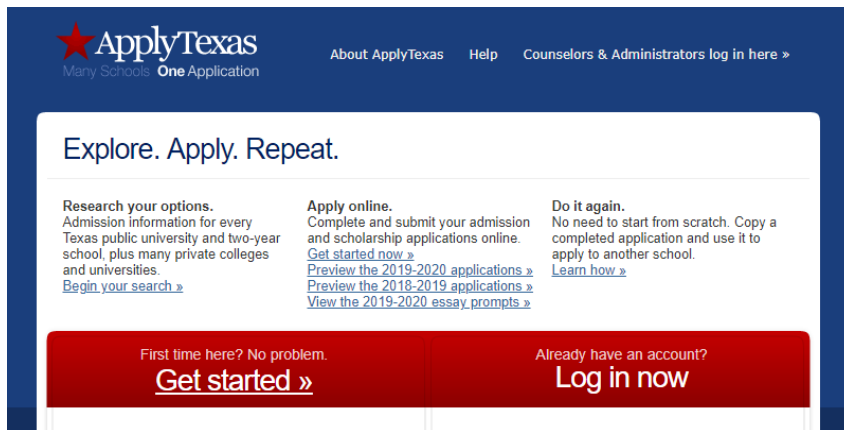
Goal 1: Independent school districts and institutions of higher education will implement purposeful and collaborative outreach efforts to inform all students and parents of the benefits and costs of dual credit, including enrollment and fee policies.

- Measures of implementation:
Documentation summarizing collaboration and outreach efforts of IHEs and secondary school partners will be readily available and posted.

Examples of items to include in documentation:

- Collaboration between ISDs and IHE partners to host informational sessions for students and parents on dual credit opportunities, benefits and costs;
- ISD and IHE dual credit webpages reflect the most current dual credit program information including enrollment and fee policies;
- Hosting dual credit 101 sessions for high school counselors;
- Collaboration between ISDs and IHE partners on a marketing campaign.

Also, secondary counselors, please make sure that you are active in your ApplyTexas Counselor Suite accounts. If you are not, please e-mail me (only designated secondary school counselors and college and career specialists), and I will get you set up.



The screenshot shows the ApplyTexas website homepage. At the top, there is a blue header with the ApplyTexas logo (a red star) and the tagline "Many Schools. One Application." To the right of the logo are links for "About ApplyTexas", "Help", and "Counselors & Administrators log in here »". Below the header, the main content area has a white background with the heading "Explore. Apply. Repeat." in blue. Under this heading, there are three columns of text. The first column is titled "Research your options." and describes the range of schools available, with a link "Begin your search »". The second column is titled "Apply online." and describes the online application process, with links for "Get started now »", "Preview the 2019-2020 applications »", "Preview the 2018-2019 applications »", and "View the 2019-2020 essay prompts »". The third column is titled "Do it again." and describes the process of re-applying, with a link "Learn how »". At the bottom of the main content area, there is a red banner with two white buttons. The left button says "First time here? No problem. Get started »" and the right button says "Already have an account? Log in now".

ApplyTexas
Many Schools. One Application.

About ApplyTexas Help Counselors & Administrators log in here »

Explore. Apply. Repeat.

Research your options.
Admission information for every Texas public university and two-year school, plus many private colleges and universities.
[Begin your search »](#)

Apply online.
Complete and submit your admission and scholarship applications online.
[Get started now »](#)
[Preview the 2019-2020 applications »](#)
[Preview the 2018-2019 applications »](#)
[View the 2019-2020 essay prompts »](#)

Do it again.
No need to start from scratch. Copy a completed application and use it to apply to another school.
[Learn how »](#)

First time here? No problem.
Get started »

Already have an account?
Log in now

Be sure to follow us on Twitter!



@TxR12_Counselor