

High School Allotment

Description:

The High School Allotment was established to:

- prepare underachieving students to enter institutions of higher education;
- encourage students to pursue advanced academic opportunities;
- provide opportunities for students to take academically rigorous courses;
- align secondary and postsecondary curriculum and expectations; and
- support other promising high school completion and success initiatives in Grades 6-12 approved by the commissioner of education.

Eligibility:

All districts receive funding based on the amount of \$275 for each student in average daily attendance in grades 9 through 12. Districts may use funds for campus-level or district-wide initiatives for students in grades 6-12. Allowable uses include:

- Professional development for teachers providing instruction in advanced academic courses such as AP;
- Hiring of additional teachers to allow for smaller class sizes in critical content areas;
- Fees for students taking dual credit classes and ACT/SAT tests;
- Academic support, such as AVID and AP strategies, to support at-risk students in challenging courses;
- Credit recovery programs;
- Science equipment and virtual science labs for required 4th year course;
- Activities supporting college readiness and awareness, including transportation for college visits.

Exemptions:

During the 2009-2010 school year, the commissioner of education allowed seven districts to use allotment funds for alternative academic purposes based on their achieving 70% or greater on the "College-Ready Graduates" indicator and a Completion Rate that qualified the district for an Exemplary rating.

Authority:

Created by 79th Texas Legislature (3rd called session), House Bill 1, 2006, TEC §39.114, re-designated in TEC §39.234 and §42.160 (81st Legislature).

Funding Source:

Distributed to districts as part of regularly scheduled Foundation School Program payments.

School Year	Amount	School Year	Amount
06-07	\$321,739,572	08-09	\$327,306,733
07-08	\$325,688,147	09-10	\$335,873,992

Evaluation:

Districts are not required to report on the use of High School Allotment funds; however, TEA's Office for Planning, Grants and Evaluation conducted a survey of how funds were used during the allotment's first year (2006-2007 school year).

- Majority of school districts (72%) directed all funds to high school campuses. Those with more than one high school distributed funds based on highest needs.
- Approximately 38% of allowable funds were expended during the 2006-07 school year.
- According to campus surveys, the most frequently cited allowable activities supported by allotment funds were technology for credit recovery (30%), tutoring to help students earn a high school diploma (28%), and books/materials for dual/concurrent enrollment courses (25%).

Exceptional Uses of High School Allotment

A self-nomination process was established to recognize districts for exceptional programs/strategies implemented with the help of allotment funds. Examples of strategies and activities recognized during the past three years include:

- ❖ Content coaches to aid struggling students in achieving success in core subjects
- ❖ College readiness counselors to help students make successful transitions to college
- ❖ Curriculum alignment activities between district middle schools and high schools, including the development of rigorous lessons aligned with state and national standards, creation of TAKS intervention resources, and sharing of best practices
- ❖ Before- and after-school programs to assist students with applying for college and financial aid
- ❖ College readiness courses focused on teaching strategies to improve test scores
- ❖ District-wide sharing of teachers between campuses, utilizing a blend of computer-based and non-traditional instruction to target at-risk students