



Education

Education is the foundation for future economic growth. Developing a well-educated and highly skilled work force is essential for successful competition in the global economy.

Public Education

About 4.1 percent, or more than 190,000, of the state's public elementary and secondary students attend school in the Central Texas region. The region is home to 110 public school districts with 467 campuses as well as ten charter districts and their 14 campuses.

The region's number of students has risen in recent years, growing by 8.6 percent from the 2001-02 to 2007-08 school years. This

increase represents a net gain of more than 15,086 students. The population of the region, state and nation rose by 7.1, 11.8 and 6.0 percent, respectively, over the same time period.¹

During 2007-08, the region's largest independent school districts (ISDs) by enrollment were Killeen ISD in Bell County, with more than 38,000 students, and Waco ISD in McLennan County, with more than 15,000 students. The smallest districts were Rapoport Academy Prep School in McLennan County, with 51 students, and Transformative Charter Academy in Bell County, with 59 students.

The Central Texas region, like the rest of the state, has seen its public school population become more diverse and more Hispanic (**Exhibit 39**). Still, the region is less ethnically diverse than the statewide student population, which is 47.2 percent Hispanic,

The Central Texas region, like the rest of the state, has seen its public school population become more diverse and more Hispanic.



Baylor University School of Education.

PHOTO: Baylor University



Exhibit 39

Ethnicity of Public School Students, Central Texas Region, 2001-02 vs. 2007-08 School Years

Ethnicity	2001-02	2007-08
White	53.6%	48.9%
Hispanic	21.6	26.4
Black	22.7	22.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	1.9
Native American	0.4	0.5

Note: Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.
Source: Texas Education Agency.

34.8 percent white, 14.3 percent black, 3.4 percent Asian/Pacific islander and 0.3 percent Native American.

The region has seen an increase in its number of economically disadvantaged students. In 2001-02, nearly 85,000 students or 48.2 percent of total enrollment were identified as economically disadvantaged. In 2007-08, more than 101,000 students or 53 percent of the region’s students were classified in this way, slightly less than the statewide average of 55.3 percent.

Exhibit 40

2007-08 Accountability Ratings, Central Texas School Districts

Rating	Region	Statewide
Exemplary	3.5%	3.5%
Recognized	23.9	26.8
Academically Acceptable	71.7	66.6
Academically Unacceptable	0.9	2.6
Not Rated: Other	0.0	0.6

Note: “Not Rated: Other” includes campuses such as alternative education programs or early childhood education centers. These data include charter districts. Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.
Source: Texas Education Agency.

Accountability

Central Texas school districts compared somewhat favorably with statewide averages in the 2007-08 district accountability ratings established by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The region exceeded the state average for Academically Acceptable ratings, and fared favorably with the statewide average for districts deemed Academically Unacceptable (**Exhibit 40**).

In August 2008, TEA rated four of the region’s 113 districts as Exemplary; 27 as Recognized; 81 as Academically Acceptable; and one as Academically Unacceptable.

Central Texas also exceeded statewide averages in the number of campuses rated Academically Acceptable (**Exhibit 41**).

Of the 475 campuses in the region’s districts, including charter schools, 25 were rated Exemplary; 162 were rated Recognized; 224 were Academically Acceptable; 23 were Academically Unacceptable; and 41 were listed as “Not Rated: Other” in 2007-08.

Six of the region’s ten charter districts were rated Academically Acceptable while four were rated as Recognized. Five charter

Exhibit 41

2007-08 Accountability Ratings, Central Texas School Campuses

Rating	Region	Statewide
Exemplary	5.3%	12.2%
Recognized	34.1	34.4
Academically Acceptable	47.2	42.8
Academically Unacceptable	4.8	2.5
Not Rated: Other	8.6	8.1

Note: “Not Rated: Other” includes campuses such as alternative education programs or early childhood education centers. These data include charter districts.
Source: Texas Education Agency.



If I Had a Hammer

The national 'If I Had a Hammer' project combines academic learning with hands-on activity. Classroom curriculum is combined with a construction team activity, enabling students to form groups to construct an eight-by-11-foot house in less than two hours. The finished product is a free-standing house with windows, front porch and door.

Through the project, students are able to learn the importance of teamwork, communication and real-life application of science and math concepts. By building the house and working through the classroom curriculum, students can better understand the application of math concepts, processes and functions, for instance by adding fractions to measure a room or applying sales tax to the budget.

In 2000, the 'If I Had a Hammer' project partnered with Blinn College to offer the program at the Bryan and Brenham campuses. The program is open to all fifth-grade students in Brazos, Burleson, Fayette, Grimes, Lee, Madison, Waller and Washington counties and parts of Austin, Milam, Montgomery, Robertson and Walker counties. Every year, more than 1,000 students participate in the program. The program is offered free of charge to the students and Blinn College pays all of the associated costs in annual license fee and purchasing of materials. Classes are taught by trained professionals in the area.²

Local businesses also can participate as sponsors. In return for sponsorships, business employees work as construction bosses to help students build houses; their company logos are printed on t-shirts handed out to the children.³

district campuses were rated as Recognized, eight as Academically Acceptable and one as Academically Unacceptable.

In 2008, among Central Texas districts that teach all grade levels, Crawford ISD in McLennan County had the highest percentage of students passing all Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests, at 92 percent. Itasca ISD in Hill County had the next largest share, at 89 percent. (An average for the Central Texas region is not available because TEA reports district data only as percentages.)

Within the region, all graduating students in Richland Springs and Cherokee ISDs took college entrance exams in the 2007-08 school year, greatly outpacing the statewide average of 65.8 percent. Of the 111 Central Texas districts for which data are available, 74 had participation rates above the state average.

College Station ISD had the highest percentage of test takers scoring at or above the criterion score used by TEA to measure college readiness, at 50.8 percent; slightly more than 82 percent of its graduating class took at least one of the tests. Across the state, 27.1 percent of students who took at least one of the tests scored at or above the criterion score.

Outcomes

In 2008, 78 percent of Central Texas residents over the age of 25 had a high school diploma, a GED and/or some higher education, slightly above the statewide average of 75.7 percent.⁴

In the 2006-07 school year, 10,452 students graduated from the region's public high schools, representing about 4.3 percent of the statewide total for that year. Killeen

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Shakespeare at Winedale

Shakespeare at Winedale was established in 1970 as a University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) English course. Today, it has grown into a year-round program dedicated to bringing Shakespeare to life through theatrical performance. The program was founded by Professor James B. Ayres, who believed that Shakespeare’s plays are best learned by performing them.

During the summer program, students spend two months studying and performing three plays in a converted nineteenth-century barn. The first part of the course focuses on preparing the students with source materials, texts, scholarship and criticism delivered through individual study and correspondence and conference courses. The second part of the class takes part at the Winedale Historical Center near Round Top.

A spring program is offered at the UT-Austin campus, with performances at Winedale. The class features a combination of studying the interpretive challenges of Shakespeare’s plays and exploring the plays through performance. The class requires that the students spend time at the University of Texas Winedale Historical Center to prepare for the public performances that will be held near the end of the course.

In addition, for 10- to 16-year-olds, UT’s Camp Shakespeare offers a two-week experience in performing and learning Shakespeare. This outreach program is offered to all young people and is held in the small town of Round Top.⁵

ISD had the largest number of graduates with 1,480, while the Temple Education Center had the smallest number, with just three graduates.

About 9.7 percent of the region’s students graduated under the state’s most stringent graduation plan, the Distinguished Achievement plan; 61.4 percent under the Recommended plan, which is the required plan; and 28.8 percent under the Minimum plan, a less stringent graduation plan that requires both parental and school approval, or

under an Individual Education Plan offered through Special Education (**Exhibit 42**).

School Finance

In the 2007-08 school year, the Central Texas region’s total school spending per pupil, including debt service, averaged \$9,930, which is 2.3 percent less than the statewide average of \$10,162.

Twenty-three Central Texas districts spent more than 20 percent above the statewide average. Another 51 districts, however,

Exhibit 42

2007 High School Graduates, Central Texas Region vs. Statewide

Graduation Plan	Region	Statewide
Distinguished Achievement	9.7%	11.1%
Recommended	61.4	66.8
Minimum/IEP*	28.8	22.1
Distinguished Achievement & Recommended as Percent of Total	71.2%	77.9%

Note: Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.
Source: Texas Education Agency.



including the region's charter schools, spent less per pupil than the statewide average.

Excluding charter districts, which do not receive funding from local taxes, the region's lowest total tax rate in 2007 was that of Leon ISD, at 89.7 cents per \$100 of property value. Rogers ISD levied the highest rate at \$1.52. The statewide average was \$1.18 per \$100 of value; 98 districts in the Central Texas region had higher rates.

The region generated a lower percentage of its school revenue from local taxes (35.7 percent) than the statewide average (45.8 percent). Dew ISD received the largest portion of its school funding from local taxes (73 percent), while Westphalia ISD had the lowest share (11.3 percent). The region's share of revenue from other local sources, such as equity transfers and tuition, was a bit higher than the state's, at 7.1 percent versus 6.7 percent. Malone ISD gained 31.1 percent of its revenue from these other local sources, for the highest share in the region; Penelope ISD received the lowest share for its non-charter schools, at 2 percent.

Coolidge ISD had the lowest property wealth per pupil in 2007, at \$95,519, while Dew ISD led the region with \$2,963,265 per pupil. Dew ISD has high property values from oil and gas resources, with a relatively low number of students. The regional average was \$279,975, or 16 percent lower than the statewide average of \$333,420.

Texas law requires districts with relatively high property wealth per pupil to share it with less-wealthy districts through a process called "equity transfers." In 2007, 11 districts in the Central Texas region transferred roughly \$52.2 million, an average of \$282 per pupil. Fairfield ISD transferred the largest total

amount (\$15.6 million), while Dew ISD had the highest per-pupil transfer (\$25,935).

Among the non-charter districts, Priddy ISD received the largest share of revenue from the state in 2008, at 76.4 percent. Franklin ISD received the smallest state share, at 10.4 percent. The regional average for 2007 was 44.6 percent, slightly higher than the statewide average of 37.8 percent. The region also derived a higher share of its school funding from federal aid than the statewide average, at 12.5 versus 9.8 percent.⁶

Teachers

In examining teacher salaries across the region, it should be remembered that average salaries vary with length of teacher tenure as well as wage levels. District A, for instance, may have a higher average salary than District B because it has a higher percentage of experienced teachers, even though its wage levels for various years of experience are lower than District B's.

The average Central Texas teacher salary in 2007-08 was \$3,803 below the statewide average of \$46,179. Orenda Charter School had the highest average salary at \$46,412.

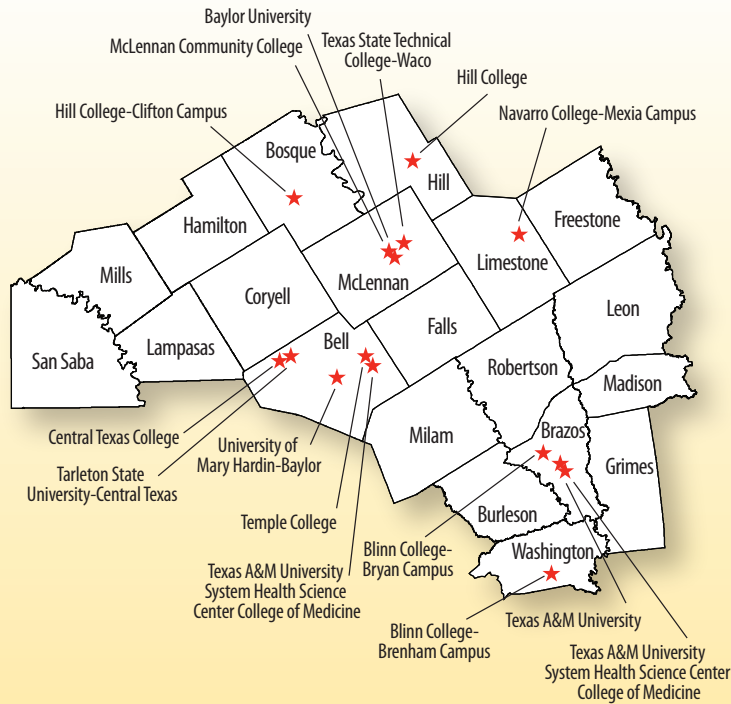
Average salaries in the region rose by 13.5 percent from 2002-03 to 2007-08, compared with a statewide average rise of 15.5 percent over the same period. Mumford ISD had the highest increase over this period at more than 37 percent.

The region's teacher salaries accounted for more than 28 percent of total district expenditures from all funds in 2007-08, about half of the statewide average of 64.1 percent. Cherokee ISD had the highest percentage of teacher salaries to total expenditures, at 47.4 percent. All of the districts in the region



Exhibit 43

Central Texas Higher Education Institutions



Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

devoted a lesser percentage of expenditures to teacher salaries than the statewide average.

In 2007-08, the region had a lower number of students per teacher, at 13.7 versus the statewide average of 14.7. Star ISD had the lowest number of students per teacher, at 4.4.⁷

Higher Education

The Central Texas region has 11 institutions of higher education (**Exhibit 43**) that administer 15 campuses across the region. Seven of the region's 20 counties have at least one higher education campus (**Exhibit 44**).⁸

The region's only four-year public university, Texas A&M University (TAMU), is located in Brazos County. Tarleton State University operates Tarleton State University-Central Texas in Killeen, an upper-level institution serving junior, senior and graduate students.

Exhibit 44

Higher Education Campuses, Central Texas Region

Institution	City	County
Central Texas College	Killeen	Bell
Tarleton State University – Central Texas	Killeen	Bell
Temple College	Temple	Bell
Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine	Temple	Bell
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	Belton	Bell
Hill College – Clifton Campus	Clifton	Bosque
Blinn College – Brenham Campus	Brenham	Washington
Blinn College – Bryan Campus	Bryan	Brazos
Texas A&M University	College Station	Brazos
Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine	College Station	Brazos
Hill College	Hillsboro	Hill
Navarro College – Mexia Campus	Mexia	Limestone
Baylor University	Waco	McLennan
McLennan Community College	Waco	McLennan
Texas State Technical College – Waco	Bellmead	McLennan

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Nestled in College Station on Texas A&M University's West Campus, the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum celebrates the life and career of our nation's 41st president. The museum, opened in 1997, exhibits more than 90,000 artifacts, including a portion of the Berlin Wall, thousands of gifts from heads of state around the world and a WWII-era torpedo bomber aircraft. The library and museum receive approximately 140,000 visitors per year.⁹

Museum exhibits highlight numerous landmarks from Bush's presidency, such as the Kuwaiti Door, a wooden door given to Bush by the Emir of Kuwait in 1993 as a symbol of friendship. An interactive display allows visitors to view points of light on a fiber-optic map of the U.S., depicting Bush's famous "Thousand Points of Light" speech. A replica Oval Office, complete with presidential desk, allows visitors to sit in the "seat of power."

Other exhibits examine Barbara Bush's achievements as first lady, including her efforts to encourage literacy. The museum also offers visitors a look at George Bush's private life. Visitors can view a film about his childhood as well as his experiences as a husband, father and leader of the United States.¹⁰

Picturesque surroundings add to the visitor's enjoyment. Behind the library, a walking trail leads around a pond complemented by the Barbara Bush Rose Garden. A statue of horses trampling chunks of the Berlin Wall, symbolizing its destruction during Bush's presidency, stands in front of the library. The Presidential Conference Center and neighboring Bush Academic Building, which houses Texas A&M's economics and political science programs, sit adjacent to the library and museum.

An \$8.3 million renovation in 2007 further improved this already memorable site. In November 2007, George Bush celebrated the grand reopening and 10th anniversary of his presidential library by sky-diving above it. The former president has made several sky dives above the library, beginning in 2004, on his 80th birthday.¹¹

Tarleton State-Central Texas is expected to become Texas A&M University-Central Texas by September 2009. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board must certify that Tarleton State University-Central Texas has reached a total of 1,000 full-time student equivalents (FTSE) enrollment in order to become a free-standing university.¹² The name change then must be approved by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

The College of Medicine of the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) teams with Scott & White in Temple and the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System in Waco in its clinical education programs. TAMHSC also has clinical partnerships with the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in the Temple-Fort Hood area and the Brazos Family Medical Residency in Bryan-College Station.¹³

Central Texas has six community college districts — Central Texas College, Temple College, Hill College, Blinn College, Navarro College, and McLennan Community College — with a total of seven campuses in six counties. In addition, the region has a branch of Texas State Technical College in Waco.

Finally, Central Texas is home to two private universities, Baylor University in Waco and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton.

Enrollment

In fall 2008, 112,189 students were enrolled in the Central Texas region's public and private colleges and universities. Enrollment in public and private four-year universities accounted for 58.2 percent of the total, while the remaining 41.8 percent were enrolled in two-year institutions.



Texas A&M University has the largest enrollment, with 48,039 students. The institution with the smallest enrollment was Hill College with 3,712 during fall 2008.

Total enrollment in the region's higher education institutions rose by 18.7 percent between 2000 and 2008. Enrollment at two-year institutions rose by 37.2 percent compared with just 8.2 percent for universities. In numerical terms, universities added 4,933 students while two-year college enrollment rose by 12,710. For the state as a whole, public university enrollment increased by 22.8 percent, while enrollment at public two-year institutions, including community colleges, rose by 37.8 percent.

Among the region's institutions, Hill College had the largest percentage enrollment growth between 2000 and 2008, adding 1,206 students for a 48.1 percent increase (**Exhibit 45**). Numerically, TAMU added

the greatest number in student population in the region during 2000 to 2008 increasing by 4,013 students.¹⁴

Accessibility

Of 18,816 first-time applicants for undergraduate admission at TAMU for Fall 2008, the institution accepted 76.4 percent, less than the statewide average of 85.9 percent. The share of students accepted by TAMU who were at the top of their high school graduating classes was more than twice the statewide average share. Of 14,379 students accepted to TAMU, 44 percent were in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes, compared with 20.4 percent statewide.¹⁵

Outcomes

Because some degrees require more than four years of study, and because some students may need more time to graduate,

Total enrollment in the region's higher education institutions rose by 18.7 percent between 2000 and 2008.

Renaissance Festival

The Texas Renaissance Festival, held on land located between Plantersville and Magnolia, provides entertainment on eight consecutive weekends in the months of October and November. The festival features choreographed swordfights, shows including birds of prey, comedy routines, music and arts and crafts. Demonstrations at the festival include glassblowing, broommaking and printmaking, featuring a reproduction of the famed Guttenberg press. Guests are encouraged to dress up in Renaissance garb for the festival, which bills itself as the nation's largest and most acclaimed of its kind.

The festival also features a number of activities for kids, including elephant rides, a children's petting zoo and archery. Various booths offer food and drink throughout the festival. The festival also hosts school days for school-aged children two days out of the year.

The festival holds a variety of theme weekends, including Pirate Adventure and Celtic Christmas. Couples can marry at five different wedding venues on the festival grounds.

The festival supports two charities, the Spina Bifida Association Houston Gulf Coast Chapter and the Society of Samaritans. Each day closes with a fireworks display. On-site camping for the festival is available.¹⁶



Exhibit 45

Central Texas Region, Fall Headcount Enrollment 2000 and 2008

Public Institutions	Fall 2000 Enrollment	Fall 2008 Enrollment	Enrollment Change	Percent Change
Texas A&M University	44,026	48,039	4,013	9.1%
Regional Total – Public Universities	44,026	48,039	4,013	9.1%
Statewide Total – Public Universities	414,626	509,136	94,510	22.8%
Blinn College	12,025	15,602	3,577	29.7
Central Texas College	6,650	9,481	2,831	42.6
Hill College	2,506	3,712	1,206	48.1
McLennan Community College	5,721	7,855	2,134	37.3
Temple College	3,381	5,178	1,797	53.1
Texas State Technical College – Waco	3,928	5,093	1,165	29.7
Regional Total – Two-year Public Colleges	34,211	46,921	12,710	37.2%
Statewide Total – Two-year Public Colleges	447,998	617,507	169,509	37.8%
Private Institutions	Fall 2000 Enrollment	Fall 2008 Enrollment	Enrollment Change	Percent Change
Baylor University	13,719	14,541	822	6.0%
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	2,590	2,688	98	3.5
Regional Total – Private Universities	16,309	15,745	-564	-3.5%
Statewide Total – Private Universities	107,681	115,048	7,367	6.8%
	Fall 2000 Enrollment	Fall 2008 Enrollment	Enrollment Change	Percent Change
Regional Total 2-Year Institutions	34,211	46,921	12,710	37.2%
Regional Total 4-Year Institutions	60,335	65,268	4,933	8.2%
Regional Total Higher Education	94,546	112,189	17,643	18.7%

Note: Regional data do not include enrollment data for branch campuses located in Central Texas that are part of a main campus located in other regions, since they are not reported separately to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Data for all institutions includes health-related and independent institutions.
 Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) compares four-year and six-year graduation rates to measure university outcomes. TAMU’s four- and six-year graduation rates were 42.6 percent and 81.6 percent, respectively, in fiscal 2007, much higher than the statewide averages of 25.1 percent for four-year and 57.2 percent for six-year graduates.

Since many community college students go on to a university to obtain a four-year degree, THECB compares three-year and six-year graduation rates to measure community college outcomes. Texas State Technical College-Waco (TSTC-Waco) had the region’s highest three-year graduation rate in fiscal 2007, while Blinn College had the highest six-year graduation rate. Blinn College,



McLennan Community College, Temple College and TSTC-Waco ranked above the statewide average for both three- and six-year graduation rates in fiscal 2007. Hill College also outpaced the state average for three-year graduation rate and closely matched the state's six-year graduation rate of 30.8 percent (**Exhibit 46**).

From fiscal 2000 to fiscal 2007, TAMU's number of degrees awarded annually rose by 11.8 percent, to 10,627. The statewide average increase was 30.3 percent (**Exhibit 47**).

Over the same period, the number of degrees and certificates that Texas community

colleges awarded increased by 49.2 percent. Among the region's six community colleges, Blinn College had the sharpest increase in degrees awarded, at 69.5 percent (**Exhibit 48**). Central Texas College awarded the greatest number of degrees in fiscal 2008 with 1,390, followed by Blinn College at 1,093 and TSTC-Waco with 899.¹⁷

Affordability

From 2002-03 to 2008-09, TAMU's annual estimated costs for a student's tuition and fees, based on 15 credit hours per semester, rose by about 60 percent, to \$7,899. The

Exhibit 46

Three- and Six-Year Graduation Rates, (First-time, Full-time, Credential-seeking Students), Central Texas Community Colleges vs. Statewide Average Fiscal 2000 and 2007

Institution	Fiscal 2000 3-year	Fiscal 2000 6-year	Fiscal 2007 3-year	Fiscal 2007 6-year
Blinn College	13.8%	37.4%	8.2%	48.4%
Central Texas College	13.2	27.2	6.8	27.7
Hill College	21.5	29.4	20.1	30.1
McLennan Community College	10.8	31.4	12.9	36.4
Temple College	9.6	33.1	9.5	36.5
Texas State Technical College – Waco	28.6	37.0	26.5	38.4
Statewide Average	10.8%	25.7%	11.1%	30.8%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Exhibit 47

Degrees Awarded, Central Texas Region Public Universities Central Texas Region vs. State, Fiscal 2000 and 2007

Institution	Fiscal 2000	Fiscal 2007	Difference	% Change
Texas A&M University	9,508	10,627	1,119	11.8%
Statewide Total	78,954	102,897	23,943	30.3%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



Exhibit 48

**Degrees and Certificates Awarded, Central Texas Region Two-Year Colleges
Fiscal 2000 vs. 2008**

Institution	Fiscal 2000	Fiscal 2008	Difference	% Change
Blinn College	645	1,093	448	69.5%
Central Texas College	1,242	1,390	148	11.9
Hill College	280	449	169	60.4
McLennan Community College	651	793	142	21.8
Temple College	364	466	102	28.0
Texas State Technical College – Waco	961	899	-62	-6.5
Regional Total	4,143	5,090	947	22.9%
Statewide	37,395	55,809	18,414	49.2%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

statewide average for undergraduate tuition and fees rose by about 80 percent, to \$6,193.

For the 2007-08 school year, the estimated annual cost of tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses at TAMU (based on 15 credit hours in both fall and spring) was \$19,950. The statewide average was \$18,389.

The cost of the region’s private universities is higher than the statewide average for such institutions. For 2008-09, the estimated annual cost of tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses was \$40,144 at Baylor University and \$30,000 at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The statewide average for private institutions was \$29,859.

From 2002-03 to 2008-09, resident tuition and fee changes at the region’s six community colleges ranged from an increase of \$127 at Central Texas College to \$972 more at McLennan Community College. Meanwhile, the statewide average increase for community colleges was about \$675 or about 60.3 percent. In 2008-09, tuition and fees in the

region were lowest at Central Texas College, at \$1,470, and highest at McLennan Community College, at \$2,100.¹⁸

The total cost of attending the Central Texas region’s community colleges in 2008-09, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses for two semesters, ranged from \$10,012 for McLennan Community College to \$15,410 for Hill College. The statewide average for community colleges was \$12,510.¹⁹

Funding

Total revenue for TAMU, including tuition and fees, general revenue appropriations, federal funds and institutional funds, rose by 24.4 percent from fiscal 2006 to fiscal 2008, compared to a statewide average rise of 15.6 percent for public universities. (Exhibit 49).²⁰

Total appropriations for the 2008-09 biennium increased for all of the region’s community colleges. Between 2002-03 and 2008-09, statewide appropriations for all community colleges rose by 8 percent (Exhibit 50).²¹



Exhibit 49

Public Universities Total Revenues Sources, Texas A&M University and Statewide, Fiscal 2006 and Fiscal 2008**Texas A&M University**

Revenue Source	Fiscal 2006	Fiscal 2008	% Increase
Tuition and fees	\$223,224,830	\$276,913,639	24.1%
State appropriations	304,385,246	346,882,403	14.0
Federal funds	75,041,156	81,908,778	9.2
Institutional funds	155,587,750	237,695,541	52.8
Total Revenue	\$758,238,983	\$943,400,361	24.4%

Statewide

Revenue Source	Fiscal 2006	Fiscal 2008	% Increase
Tuition and fees	\$2,000,693,293	\$2,400,749,604	20.0%
State appropriations	2,599,091,546	2,949,486,914	13.5
Federal funds	1,161,122,338	1,260,930,090	8.6
Institutional funds	1,375,219,819	1,638,009,659	19.1
Total Revenue	\$7,136,126,996	\$8,249,176,267	15.6%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Exhibit 50

General Revenue Appropriations, Public Community and Technical Colleges Central Texas Region and Statewide, Fiscal 2002-2009

Institution	2002-03 Biennium	2004-05 Biennium	2006-07 Biennium	2008-09 Biennium	% Change 2002-03 to 2008-09
Blinn College	\$40,123,832	\$36,796,275	\$37,744,228	\$41,139,958	2.5%
Central Texas College	35,986,374	35,886,775	38,724,256	40,026,227	11.2
Hill College	9,982,342	10,715,664	11,069,698	12,995,631	30.2
McLennan Community College	23,068,770	23,793,868	26,555,732	27,607,204	19.7
Temple College	12,624,594	12,165,215	12,310,414	14,101,299	11.7
Texas State Technical College – Waco	49,706,313	38,934,116	48,373,644	50,904,009	2.4
Public Community & Technical College Statewide Total	\$1,709,158,821	\$1,622,141,439	\$1,763,114,757	\$1,845,292,200	8.0%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



Museums

The Central Texas region is home to several independent museums. The mission of Brazos Valley Children’s Museum in Bryan is “to provide a child-centered, hands-on, interactive environment for learning and discovery for children.”

The museum features educational videos, a community quilt display, a room built upside down and an arts display where children can perform plays or paint their faces. The museum also includes daily children’s programming including reading time, a healthy kids presentation and “Monday Madness,” a fun crafts project.²²

With the establishment of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco, “Texas became the first state to honor its athletes with a hall of fame.” The hall of fame was the idea of former sports editor Thad Johnson of the *Beaumont Enterprise*, who presented it before the Texas Sportswriters Association for unanimous approval in 1949. Today, the hall features memorabilia from inductees including Troy Aikman, Earl Campbell and Clyde Drexler, among other notable luminaries.²³

Fairfield’s Freestone County Museum was once a jail. Built in 1879 to “fortress-like specifications,” the jail included prison cells, referred to as the “dungeon,” with living quarters for the sheriff and his family downstairs. The jail became a museum in 1968 and today houses artifacts from the Civil War. The grounds also include two log cabins, an antique telephone museum and an Assembly of God church built in the 1930s to reform bootleggers during the time of Prohibition. Admission is free.²⁴

Caldwell’s Burleson County Czech Heritage Museum was created to “promote and preserve the unique heritage and culture of the Czech people in Europe and the Czech settlers in this part of Texas.” The museum houses items used by Texas Czech settlers, rare cut crystal and pottery and various Czech instruments. Burleson itself is known as “the Kolache capital of Texas,” and Caldwell is the location for the annual Kolache Festival, featuring a wonderful array of Czech foods and presentations on basket weaving, woodcutting, and quilting.²⁵

Central Texas Region Museums

County	City	Museum
Brazos	Bryan	Children’s Museum of the Brazos Valley
Bosque	Clifton	Bosque Museum
Burleson	Caldwell	Burleson County Czech Heritage Museum
Coryell	Gatesville	Coryell Museum and Historical Center
Falls	Marlin	Falls County Museum
Freestone	Fairfield	Freestone County Museum
McLennan	Waco	Armstrong Browning Library
McLennan	Waco	Texas Sports Hall of Fame
McLennan	Waco	Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum
Milam	Cameron	Milam County Historical Museum
Mills	Goldthwaite	Mills County Museum
San Saba	San Saba	San Saba County Historical Museum
Washington	Brenham	Brenham Heritage Museum

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.



Contact hours — the time a professor actually spends in the classroom with students — for community, state and technical colleges rose 21.1 percent statewide from fall 2000 to fall 2007. In the Central Texas region, contact hours increased at all

community colleges with the exception of Central Texas College. The largest increases were at Temple College with 42.9 percent, Hill College at 31.6 percent and McLennan Community College at 23.9 percent (Exhibit 51).²⁶

Bosque Museum

The Bosque Museum in Clifton celebrates the Norwegian heritage of Bosque County's early settlers by showcasing numerous artifacts that once belonged to them, including jewelry, folk art, books and even handmade furniture. The museum's Norwegian Collection is the largest in the South and Southwest, with artifacts dating back to the 1850s. The museum's gift shop offers Norwegian and Scandinavian recipes once used by county settlers.

The museum boasts several other collections as well. For example, its Pioneer Collection contains items used during the days of the Chisholm Trail, a cattle drive that linked Texas with Oklahoma and Missouri in the late 19th century. An authentic one-room pioneer cabin originally built in the 1850s graces the museum grounds. A firearms collection of more than 150 guns is on display. One impressive exhibit includes firearms used in every U.S. conflict from the American Revolution through World War II.

In 2006, the Bosque Museum opened the Horn Shelter, an exhibit replicating the burial site of two Paleo-American skeletons found in the county. Carbon dating analysis estimates the skeletons' ages at 11,200 years; only three such sites have been found with funeral-related items in the U.S. The Horn Shelter complements the museum's already substantial collection of Indian artifacts.²⁷

Exhibit 51

Community, State and Technical Colleges, Contact Hours Fall 2000 vs. Fall 2007, Central Texas Region

Institution	Fall 2000	Fall 2007	% Change 2000 to 2007
Blinn College	2,362,101	2,542,934	7.7%
Central Texas College	1,245,528	1,041,056	-16.4
Hill College	541,840	712,832	31.6
McLennan Community College	995,104	1,233,189	23.9
Texas State Technical College – Waco	4,133,422	4,302,780	4.1
Temple College	585,182	836,092	42.9
Public Community & Technical College Statewide Total	73,370,630	88,822,358	21.1%

Note: Contact hours include only those with a full- or part-time faculty instructing by lecture, lab or practicum. Classes taught at an inter-institutional location are excluded. Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



Industry Profile: Higher Education

The Central Texas region has a full complement of higher education institutions, with a major public research university and a private research university, a number of community colleges and a state supported technical college.

Texas A&M University

Located in College Station, in the heart of the Brazos Valley, Texas A&M University plays an integral role in the educational, social and economic fabric of Central Texas.

Texas A&M was established as a land-grant college in 1871. Originally, the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas was an all-male military college known for its Corps of Cadets program, and remained so until university president General James Earl Rudder made Corps participation voluntary and opened the school to women in the 1960s.²⁸

The university is by far the region’s largest, with 48,039 students enrolled for the 2008-2009 academic year, or about 43 percent of all students attending two- and four-year educational institutions in the region. Texas A&M offers more than 120 undergraduate degree programs and 240 graduate programs. The university’s agriculture, engineering, business and veterinary programs are among the most highly rated; the school of engineering consistently ranks among *U.S. News and World Report’s* top 10 undergraduate and graduate programs, as does its veterinary school.²⁹

But Texas A&M’s influence on the Central Texas region extends far beyond academics. For example, each year thousands of Aggies come together for the BIG Event, a day-long service event that consists of a number of projects in the Bryan-College Station area. Since its inception in 1982, the BIG Event has grown to become the nation’s largest single-day, student-run service project. Individual

projects involve activities such as applying a fresh layer of paint to a home exterior or picking up litter from the side of the road. In the words of the event’s founder, Joe Nussbaum, the BIG Event is a way for students to say “thank you” to the surrounding community.³⁰

With 48,000-plus students and more than 21,000 employees, Texas A&M has a profound economic effect on Central Texas. An in-house study conducted in 2007 estimates the university’s economic impact on Brazos County at \$2.7 billion in 2006 alone. The study incorporates a multiplier that accounts for dollars as they circulate throughout the community. Absent the multiplier, the study estimates the direct economic impact of the A&M System on Brazos County at \$1.1 billion annually.

Texas A&M University System



★ = Universities and Campuses

* Note: Texas A&M has satellite campuses in Galveston and the country Qatar; system affiliates are located in cities around the state including Texarkana, Corpus Christi and Kingsville. Source: Texas A&M University System.



Industry Profile: Higher Education (cont.)

Texas A&M is perhaps most well-known for its rich history of student traditions. According to the 12th Man tradition, for example, the entire student body stands during football games in support of the team. The practice was started by a student named E. King Gill, who was called from the stands in 1922 to suit up in case the team needed him.³¹

In 2007, *Washington Monthly* ranked Texas A&M first in the nation for tangible contributions to the public interest, based on its high levels of dedication in areas such as community service, student success and academic research.

Baylor University

Baylor University, the world's largest Baptist university, is a privately owned institution in Waco that is home to more than 14,000 students from all 50 states. Fall 2008 enrollment totaled 14,541, up 6% from year 2000 enrollment.³²

While the university specializes in liberal arts, it offers outstanding programs in many other areas as well. For example, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Baylor's Entrepreneurship program 14th in the nation in 2008.³³ The diversity of Baylor's educational offerings is reflected in its theological seminary, law school, nursing program and several other programs. In all, Baylor offers nearly 150 undergraduate study programs that range from theater performance to mechanical engineering.³⁴

Founded in 1845, Baylor is among the state's oldest private universities. Originally located in Independence, Texas, Baylor consolidated with Waco University to become Baylor University in Waco in 1886. The university grew significantly in the early 20th century, when several new schools were established, including schools of education, law, business and music. In addition, Baylor opened several medicine-related schools in Dallas and established Baylor Theological Seminary as a separate entity.

Baylor's various programs have grown extensively throughout the years. The university restructured in the

1990s, clarifying the roles of its various programs; since then, university attendance has continued to grow.³⁵

In addition to a diverse academic experience, Baylor also offers historical and cultural items of interest. The university's Armstrong Browning Library contains a collection of 62 stained glass windows — possibly the largest secular collection of stained glass windows in the world. The library was founded to honor the works of Victorian-era poets Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.³⁶

Other points of interest include a newly renovated bear habitat where visitors can view several American black bears. The Bill and Eva Williams Bear Habitat is a USDA-licensed zoo that hosts a bear-friendly environment complete with pools and a waterfall. The university mascots are two American black bears named Joy and Lady.³⁷ Baylor is the only private university that is a part of the Big 12 Conference.

McLennan Community College

McLennan Community College (MCC), which offers both university transfer and career programs, has served the Central Texas region since 1966, when it held its first classes on James Connally Air Force Base. At the time there were 855 students. Enrollment since then has risen by about 6 percent annually to its current level of about 8,000 students per semester.³⁸

MCC is located on a 200-acre campus in Waco and it also owns a 200-acre farm about five miles from the main campus. MCC continues to expand and has three new buildings under construction; a general classroom building, a science building and an emergency services center. MCC partnered with the city of Waco to begin construction of a state-of-the-art Emergency Services Center, which includes classroom space for its emergency medical services, criminal justice and forensic science programs, a police academy and a fire academy, including a six-story "burn tower."³⁹

MCC offers both academic and technical courses. MCC offers three degrees (Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate of Arts in Teaching) designed for



Industry Profile: Higher Education (cont.)

transfer to a four-year institution. Each contains a core curriculum of courses recognized by Texas four-year institutions — communication, natural science, mathematics, humanities and arts, as well as the social and behavioral sciences. MCC also partners with state-funded universities to allow its students to earn bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at a University Center located on its campus.

For students interested in career programs, MCC offers certificates and Associate in Applied Science degrees in a wide range of areas including health sciences, paralegal, sign language interpretation and veterinary and medical technology. A 2006 survey found that MCC had trained 68 percent of all healthcare workers at two Waco hospitals and affiliated clinics.⁴⁰ The college offers a two-year degree in nursing that prepares students for employment in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics and long-term care facilities, making it the county’s primary provider of nurses.

Texas State Technical College - Waco

As part of the only state-supported technical college system in Texas, Texas State Technical College in Waco (TSTC-Waco) offers associate degrees and certificate programs in high-demand fields and emerging technologies. During fiscal 2007, TSTC-Waco had 6,642 students enrolled and awarded 1,032 degrees and certificates.⁴¹

The TSTC-Waco campus is located on the former site of the James Connally Air Force Base and is situated on 2,100 acres, purchased by the state in 1967.⁴²

Students who graduate from TSTC can earn good starting salaries. Based on student follow-up surveys conducted one year after graduation, the average starting salary for TSTC Waco graduates with an associate degree is \$32,000.⁴³

TSTC-Waco is part of the Texas State Technical College System, established under the Texas Education Code to deliver technical education courses as a two-year post-secondary institution. Its mission is further defined in law to include contributing to the economic and educational development of the state and improving the ability of Texas businesses to remain competitive.⁴⁴ To accomplish

this mission, TSTC-Waco offers Associate of Applied Science degrees, certificates, transfer credit and customized training programs.

Associate of Applied Science/Certificate

Credits earned at TSTC - Waco can be applied toward an associate degree or certificate or transferred to a university under articulation agreements in fields including:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| advertising design; | electrical power; |
| media communication; | instrumentation; |
| biomedical equipment; | computerized controls; |
| laser electro-optics; | robotics; |
| gaming and simulation; | pharmacy technician; |
| nanotechnology; | chemical/environmental |
| diesel and automotive | laboratory technician; |
| repair and maintenance; | geographic information |
| building construction; | systems; |
| electronics; | surveying; |
| golf course/landscape | semiconductor |
| management; | manufacturing; |
| drafting/design; | fuel cells/alternative |
| welding; | energy; |
| dental assistance; | industrial systems and |
| environmental health/ | engineering; |
| safety; | digital media design; |
| refrigeration; | computer maintenance; |
| culinary arts; | networking; |
| aircraft pilot training; | computer science; |
| aviation maintenance; | network security; |
| avionics; | digital forensics; and |
| mechanical engineering; | telecommunications. ⁴⁵ |

Customized Training

TSTC-Waco provides needs analysis, curriculum development, technical skill benchmarking, certification training, grant development/administration and fully customized training for incumbent workers meeting new duties and responsibilities, and to provide retraining for displaced workers.⁴⁶



St. Clare Horse Farm

The Monastery of St. Clare Miniature Horse Farm, Located in Brenham between Austin and Houston, is home to a group of Franciscan Poor Clare Nuns who support themselves via alms from the community, supplementing that income with the sale of miniature horses, ceramics and crafts. The nuns have been making ceramics for more than 40 years and sell a variety of Christmas tree ornaments and Christmas-related items. Arts and crafts are available through the Nuns' Art Barn gift shop located on the premises.

The group has been raising miniature horses since 1981, also selling equipment associated with the miniature horse care industry, such as carts and harnesses. New foals are born in the spring, offering community groups and school children a rare chance to view these tiny creatures, which weigh an average of just 20 pounds at birth.

The nuns' AutumnFest event, held in October, includes fun activities such as cart rides, games and races for children as well as pumpkin painting. The AutumnFest is run entirely by volunteers.⁴⁷

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