



**SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE**

Board of Trustees

Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

3:00 p.m.

**Ann Richards Administration Building
Board Room
Pecan Campus
McAllen, Texas**

Online Copy

**South Texas College
Board of Trustees
Education and Workforce Development Committee
Ann Richards Administration Building Board Room
Pecan Campus, McAllen, Texas
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

“At anytime during the course of this meeting, the Board of Trustees may retire to Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.071(2) to confer with its legal counsel on any subject matter on this agenda in which the duty of the attorney to the Board of Trustees under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Further, at anytime during the course of this meeting, the Board of Trustees may retire to Executive Session to deliberate on any subject slated for discussion at this meeting, as may be permitted under one or more of the exceptions to the Open Meetings Act set forth in Title 5, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Texas Government Code.”

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Approval of Minutes for the Tuesday, February 10, 2026 Committee Meeting

The Minutes for the Education and Workforce Development Committee meeting of Tuesday, February 10, 2026 are presented for Committee approval.

**South Texas College
Board of Trustees
Education and Workforce Development Committee
Ann Richards Administration Building Board Room
Pecan Campus, McAllen, Texas
February 10, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Minutes

The Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 in the Ann Richards Administration Building Board Room at the Pecan Campus in McAllen, Texas. The meeting commenced at 3:11 p.m. with Ms. Victoria Cantu presiding.

Members present: Ms. Victoria Cantu and Mr. David De Los Rios via teleconference.

Other Trustees Present: Dr. Alejo Salinas, Jr. and Mr. Danny Guzman.

Members absent: Ms. Dalinda Gonzalez-Alcantar

Also present: Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, Dr. Jesus Camos, Dr. Anahid Petrosian, Dr. Brett Millan, Mr. Javier Villalobos, Dr. Fernando Chapa, Dr. Rebecca De Leon, Mr. Tony Matamoros, Dr. Matt Hebbard, Ms. Melissa Renner, Dr. Shannon Perales, Ms. Mary Del Paz, Mr. Eddie Romero, Ms. Monica Benitez, Dr. Rodney Rodriguez, Dr. Marcos Silva, Dr. Margo Vargas-Ayala, Chief Ruben Suarez, Lt. Johnny Barboza, Ms. Lynda Lopez, Mr. Andrew Fish, Mr. Serkan Celtek, Ms. Stephanie Hinojosa, and Ms. Venisa Earhart.

**Approval of November 11, 2025 Education and Workforce
Development Committee Minutes**

The Minutes for the Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting of November 11, 2025 were presented for Committee approval.

Ms. Victoria Cantu accepted the minutes as presented.

Review and Update of Strategic Plan Implementation, Alignment, and Monitoring Framework – South Texas College 2025-2031 Strategic Plan

Purpose

Administration will present the framework for implementing the South Texas College 2025–2031 Strategic Plan through unit-level Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Plans and for monitoring progress through institutional and departmental performance indicators.

The presentation will highlight how strategic goals and directions are operationalized through divisional and departmental objectives that align with institutional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and established baselines and targets. Administration will also share how institutional KPIs and department-level performance indicators are used to monitor progress, promote accountability, and support continuous improvement across the College.

Justification

The effective implementation of the 2025–2031 Strategic Plan requires systematic alignment between institutional priorities and unit-level planning, assessment, and resource allocation.

Through the Institutional Effectiveness (IE) planning process, departments and divisions translate strategic goals into measurable objectives supported by data-informed action plans and performance indicators. This alignment ensures that institutional priorities are advanced through coordinated and accountable action at all levels of the College.

By reviewing and affirming the implementation and monitoring framework, the Board reinforces its role in promoting transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in support of the College’s mission and long-term success.

Funding

No funding is requested with this presentation.

Enclosed Documents

Strategic Plan Implementation and Monitoring Framework Presentation Slides

Staff Resource

Dr. Fernando Chapa, Dean for Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Strategic Planning; and Dr. Jesús Campos, Interim VP of Technology, Information, and Planning Services

Recommendation No action was needed at this time.

Dr. Fernando Chapa and Dr. Jesus Campos presented this item to the Committee.

Presentation on Emergency Student Assistance Framework - Overview

Purpose Administration is providing an informational overview of the proposed **Emergency Student Assistance Framework**, which outlines the criteria, procedures, and governance for distributing one-time emergency financial assistance to enrolled students experiencing unforeseen life events that may jeopardize their ability to persist in their coursework.

Justification South Texas College continues to observe increased financial vulnerability among students resulting from rising living costs, health-related emergencies, family disruptions, and short-term employment instability. While traditional financial aid programs support long-term affordability, they are not designed to address immediate, short-term emergencies that can result in stop-out or withdrawal.

The Emergency Student Assistance Framework establishes clear eligibility criteria, award parameters, documentation expectations, and oversight controls to ensure emergency resources are administered equitably, consistently, and responsibly. The framework is intentionally structured as a one-time intervention, not a recurring benefit, and reflects best practices observed among peer Texas community colleges.

This informational item is intended to apprise the Board of Trustees of the framework's design and safeguards in advance of implementation.

Enclosed Documents Emergency Student Assistance Framework – Overview (Presentation)

Funding Funding for emergency student assistance will be provided through philanthropic resources from the South Texas College Foundation, transferred to the College in accordance with established Foundation and institutional procedures. No new institutional operating funds are requested as part of this informational item.

Staff Resource Dr. Matthew S. Hebbard, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Recommendation This item was for informational purposes only.

Dr. Matt Hebbard presented this item to the Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting of the South Texas College Board of Trustees adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

I certify that the foregoing are the true and correct Minutes of the February 10, 2026 Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting of the South Texas College Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Victoria Cantu, Presiding

Review of Dual Credit Programs Eligibility Criteria Update

Purpose Administration will provide an update on the recommended changes to the Dual Credit Program Eligibility Criteria, specifically regarding the implementation of a pilot program to offer a “non-degree seeking” option for dual credit students based on Fall 2025 Data.

Justification In May 2025, South Texas College Board of Trustees approved the necessary steps to pilot the Non-Degree Seeking Dual Credit pathway for the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board eligibility criteria for dual credit programs, introduced a classification for “non-degree seeking” students who have earned fewer than 15 credit hours. Under this new classification, students are not required to meet Texas Success Initiative (TSI) college readiness standards. Once a non-degree seeking student completes 15 credit hours, they must demonstrate TSI compliance and transition to degree-seeking status to continue enrolling in dual credit courses.

The program’s performance for Fall 2025 will be provided to align with their recommendations for AY 2026-2027 Dual Credit Programs Interlocal.

Funding The College is not expected to incur unrecouped costs.

Staff Resources Dr. Anahid Petrosian, Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs and Economic Development

Dr. Rebecca De Leon, Associate Vice President for Dual Credit Programs and School District Partnerships

Recommendation No action is necessary on this item. This item is to provide information and solicit feedback from the trustees

Review and Recommend Action on Proposed Interlocal Agreement for Dual Credit Programs

Purpose	Administration requests that the Education and Workforce Development Committee recommend Board approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Dual Credit Program partnerships with In-District school districts in Hidalgo and Starr counties for academic year 2026-2027.
Justification	<p>Background:</p> <p>South Texas College annually renews agreements with partner school districts to define terms for dual credit programs, incorporating any Board-approved changes to tuition, fees, and related policies. These agreements support consistent service and compliance across partnerships. They also facilitate communication and compliance efforts between the College and school districts.</p> <p>Agreement Summary:</p> <p>In academic year 2025-2026, the approved agreement included the Non-Degree Seeking Option Pilot presented to the Education and Workforce Development Committee in April 2025. The proposed agreement includes moving forth with the Non-Degree Seeking Option for academic year 2026-2027. Additionally, includes a Data Security and Breach Notification section in the Agreement.</p> <p>The agreement will be submitted to each partner district's governing board following Board approval.</p>
Funding	The College is not expected to incur unrecouped costs.
Staff Resources	Dr. Rebecca De Leon, Associate Vice President for Dual Credit Programs & School District Partnerships
Recommendation	The Committee recommends Board approval of the 2026-2027 Interlocal Agreement for In-District Dual Credit Program partnerships.

Review and Recommend Action on Proposed IDEA San Juan P-TECH Interlocal Agreement for Dual Credit Programs

Purpose	Administration seeks a committee recommendation for Board approval of an Interlocal Agreement with IDEA Public Schools, designating South Texas College as the higher education partner for their San Juan P-TECH Campus for FY 2026-2027.
Justification	<p>Background:</p> <p>The initial Agreement was presented to the Board in May 2024 where approval was given to establish and support a Computer Science pathway under the P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) model, emphasizing career and work-based education. It is specific to the San Juan campus and does not apply to other IDEA campuses.</p> <p>Agreement Summary:</p> <p>The proposed agreement includes moving forth with the Non-Degree Seeking Option and including a Data Security and Breach Notification section for academic year 2026-2027. The agreement will be submitted to the partner district's governing board following Board approval.</p>
Funding	The College is not expected to incur unrecouped costs.
Staff Resources	Dr. Rebecca De Leon, Associate Vice President for Dual Credit Programs & School District Partnerships
Recommendation	The Committee recommends Board approval of the 2026-2027 Interlocal Agreement with IDEA Public Schools for the San Juan P-TECH Campus.

Review and Recommend Action on Proposed Santa Maria ISD Interlocal Agreement for Dual Credit Programs

Purpose

Administration seeks a committee recommendation for Board approval of a Santa Maria ISD, designating South Texas College (STC) as a higher education partner for the Texas Education Agency’s Rural Pathways Expansion Program (RPEP) designation shared between Progreso ISD and Santa Maria ISD for FY 2026-2027.

Justification

Background:

The initial Agreement was presented to the Board in August 2025 where approval was given to support Region One Education Service Center submitted applications to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on behalf of Progreso ISD and Santa Maria ISD for participation in the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (RPEP) initiative.

The RPEP program is designed to expand college and career pathways for students in rural communities and launched in the 2025–2026 academic year. Santa Maria currently has 5 dual credit students enrolled in our Advanced Manufacturing as it’s their designated career pathway. Santa Maria ISD transports their students to Progreso ISD to participate in dual credit courses taught by STC Faculty.

The 2026-2027 Santa Maria ISD Agreement for their RPEP Initiative will be submitted to the partner district’s governing board following Board approval.

Funding

Administration recommends approval of an Out of District Interlocal Agreement with Santa Maria ISD. As this initiative is aimed at increasing access for rural students, Administration proposes to continue waiving tuition for Santa Maria ISD students participating in the RPEP program. The approved Dual Credit Programs 2026-2027 Flat Rate Fee for STC Faculty teaching dual credit courses at respective high school will be shared between the participating districts, proportionally based on student enrollment.

Staff Resources

Dr. Rebecca De Leon, Associate Vice President for Dual Credit Programs & School District Partnerships

Recommendation

The Committee recommends Board approval of the 2026-2027 Santa Maria ISD Interlocal Agreement for Dual Credit Programs.

Review and Recommend Action on Proposed Out-of-District Interlocal Agreement for Dual Credit Programs

Purpose	Administration requests that the Education and Workforce Development Committee recommend Board approval of the Out-of-District Interlocal Agreement for Dual Credit Program partnerships for academic year 2026-2027.
Justification	<p>Background:</p> <p>South Texas College works with partnering school districts within the College's service area to execute an interlocal agreement to specify the partnership terms that help the College and In-District ISD partners maintain a high level of quality and service to participating dual credit high school students.</p> <p>Due to requests received by two Out-of-District Districts, College Administration is seeking to establish Agreements to offer courses taught by South Texas College Faculty.</p> <p>Out-of-District partners would include school districts with service areas outside Hidalgo and Starr Counties but within the State of Texas, and who would provide opportunities for students to attend South Texas College courses. Because these partners would be within the State of Texas, an Interlocal Agreement would be the appropriate form of agreement to govern these partnerships.</p> <p>The agreement will be submitted to each partner district's governing board following Board approval.</p>
Funding	The College expected to incur unrecouped costs based on the College's approved tuition and fee structure.
Staff Resources	Dr. Rebecca De Leon, Associate Vice President for Dual Credit Programs & School District Partnerships
Recommendation	The Committee recommends Board approval of the 2026-2027 Out-of-District Interlocal Agreement for Dual Credit Program partnerships.