



Policy Vision

FOR TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION

Texas Postsecondary Advocates Coalition for Equity (PACE)

Texas PACE consists of organizations from across Texas focused on improving equity in college access, affordability, completion, and student supports. During this legislative session, we urge state leaders to collaborate on policies that will ensure Texas postsecondary students can move through the COVID-19 pandemic into a future of prosperity. Guided by core tenets of equity and student voice, we envision a postsecondary education system in Texas that advocates for:



College Access

Guarantees access to every student who wants to attend and creates opportunities for undocumented/DACAmented students

- Maintain the Texas Dream Act
- Simplify the application process for undocumented/DACAmented students, including a streamlined plan for implementation of the virtual TASFA process
- Provide training specifically for the counseling of immigrant students for high school counselors and two and four-year public college student service professionals



College Affordability

Ensure college is affordable for Texas students without the lasting burden of significant student debt

- Defend and increase equitable state investments in need-based financial aid and student emergency aid
- Defend the inclusion of undocumented students in state-level emergency aid programs
- Combat the student debt crisis in Texas by implementing state-level consumer protections
- Advance frameworks for equitable statewide college promise programs



College Completion and Supports

Equitably serve all students, especially students of color, first generation college students, and historically underrepresented students

- Prioritize access to comprehensive campus mental health care
- Require institutions to identify and carry out efforts to improve campus racial climate, and provide support
- Address college hunger and food insecurity at Texas colleges and universities by expanding student SNAP access and creating resource liaisons
- Streamline the collection and public availability of disaggregated higher education data, especially markers of equity, student loan debt, and campus-level supports toward completion
- Assess and support student learning loss and equity gaps created as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and its disproportionate impacts
- Increase targeted financial and programmatic supports for minority serving institutions, and determine additional resources



Student Civic Engagement

Ensure students have equitable access to civic engagement opportunities

- Ensure students can vote in a polling location at their college or university with 1,000 or more students
- Champion the implementation of an online voter registration system and allow for same-day voter registration
- Create the opportunity for incoming students to register to vote during enrollment
- Allow school-issued student identification as an accepted form of Voter ID



Workforce

Ensure that Texas workforce initiatives are equitably designed

- Create state-level opportunities for public service and loan forgiveness
- Include student voice in apprenticeship and work-based learning initiatives

TEXAS PACE MEMBERS

Every Texan ■ Young Invincibles ■ Breakthrough Central Texas ■ Jolt ■ MALDEF ■ Education Trust ■ Educate Texas

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ashley Williams, Coalition Cochair, Every Texan, williams@everytexan.org

Christina Long, Coalition Cochair, Young Invincibles, christina.long@younginvincibles.org

