



AGENDA

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**April 1, 2026
3:30 PM**

3100 Main Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium, Houston, Texas 77002

**NOTICE OF A MEETING OF THE
External Relations Committee
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE

April 1, 2026

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the External Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Houston City College will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 3:30 PM, or after, and from day today as required, 3100 Main Street, 2nd Floor Auditorium, Houston, Texas 77002. The items listed in this Notice may be considered in any order at the discretion of the Committee Chair and items listed for closed session discussion may be discussed in open session and vice versa as permitted by law. Actions taken at this Meeting do not constitute final Board action and are only Committee recommendations to be considered by the Board at the next Regular Board meeting.

I Call to Order

- A. Opportunity for Public Comments

II Topics For Discussion and/or Action:

- A. State and Federal Relations Report

III Adjournment to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.071; 551.072 and 551.074, the Open Meetings Act, for the following purposes:

A. Legal Matters

Consultation with legal counsel concerning pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or matters on which the attorney's duty to the System under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Laws.

B. Personnel Matters

Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer, employee or board member to hear complaints or changes against an officer, employee or board member unless the officer, employee or board member who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing.

C. Real Estate Matters

Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property for Agenda items if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the System in negotiations with a third person.

IV. Additional Closed or Executive Session Authority:

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board should determine that a closed or executive meeting or session of the Board should be held

or is required in relation to any items included in this Notice, then such closed or executive meeting or session as authorized by Section 551.001 et seq. of the Texas Government Code (the Open Meetings Act) will be held by the Board at that date, hour and place given in this Notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by the Notice as the Board may conveniently meet in such closed or executive meeting or session concerning:

Section 551.071 - For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or matters on which the attorney's duty to the System under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Laws.

Section 551.072 - For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.

Section 551.073 - For the purpose of considering a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the System if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the System in negotiations with a third person.

Section 551.074 - For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer, employee or board member to hear complaints or changes against an officer, employee or board member unless the officer, employee or board member who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing.

Section 551.076 - To consider the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices, or a security audit.

Section 551.082 - For the purpose of considering discipline of a student or to hear a complaint by an employee against another employee if the complaint or charge directly results in a need for a hearing, unless an open hearing is requested in writing by a parent or guardian of the student or by the employee against whom the complaint is brought.

Section 551.084 - For the purpose of excluding a witness or witnesses in an investigation from a hearing during examination of another witness in the investigation. Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed or executive meeting or session, then such final action, final decision, or final vote shall be at either:

A. The open meeting covered by this Notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting, or

B. At a subsequent public meeting of the Board upon notice thereof, as the Board shall determine.

V. Reconvene in Open Meeting

VI. Adjournment

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OR GIVING NOTICE

On this **26th day of March**, this Notice was posted at a place convenient to the public and readily accessible at all times to the general public at the following locations: (1) the HCC Administration Building of the Houston Community College, 3100 Main, First Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 and (2) the Houston Community College's website: www.hccs.edu.

Posted By:

Sharon R. Wright
Director, Board Services

REPORT ITEM

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026

Topics For Discussion and/or Action:

ITEM #	ITEM TITLE	PRESENTER
A.	State and Federal Relations Report	Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher Remmele J. Young, J.D.

DISCUSSION

Relating to state and federal relations activities and related policy considerations.

COMPELLING REASON AND BACKGROUND

This report item highlights key considerations associated with the now interim session period that leads to the upcoming 90th Texas legislative session in 2027. It addresses in part interim charges that routinely help identify and shape policy development before a legislative session begins, allowing for policy planning and strategic engagement. The report also provides an update on federal appropriations and Workforce Pell that fiscally operate to help students achieve their educational goals.

The above-identified discussion matters serve the purpose of apprising the HCC governing board on and about state and federal considerations deemed important to the institution.

FISCAL IMPACT

Under development

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

1. *Student Success*

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
ERC_Apr01_2026	3/19/2026	Presentation

This item is applicable to the following:

Central, Coleman, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, District, Online



External Relations Committee State & Federal Relations

Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D.
Chancellor

Remmele J. Young, J.D.
Vice Chancellor

April 1, 2026



2026 State & Federal Relations

Introduction

Executive Summary

This work operates in part to inform the development of a legislative agenda that identifies key institutional priorities of Houston City College (HCC) in anticipation of the Texas 90th legislative session. It addresses interim charges expected to guide policy deliberations and preparation for the upcoming session. It further addresses federal funding matters, including Workforce Pell and Community Project Funds, which help advance student success.

Key Considerations

- Understand priorities of state leadership and identify synergies to maximize opportunity
- Collaboratively devise a proposed legislative agenda for governing board review and adoption
- Inform Workforce Pell implementation and federal appropriations

**State
Relations****Interim Session**

- Allows for development of a proposed legislative agenda
- Allows examination of state interim charges assigned by the House Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor that aids decision-making
- Allows participation in and assessment of proposed policy initiatives emerging from peer engagement

Opportunities

- Identify policy recommendations for 90th legislative session
- Leverage relevant internal and external expertise
- Maintain existing and foster new relationships to help build momentum and drive desired outcomes
- Plan and implement strategic engagement
- Discuss matters relating to Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)

State Relations

Building HCC Policy Priorities

- Ensure the Biennial Budget (FY28-29) maintains growth, including maximizing outcomes-based funding
- Optimize student aid opportunities, including grants
- Inform implementation of Workforce Pell
- Inform consequential tax legislation
- Promote proficiencies in compliance reporting that provides better data, while minimizing undue burden
- Elevate HCC Artificial Intelligence initiative
- Improve Workforce Education Programming
- Strengthen alignments between Credentials of Value (COV) and dual credit programs



State Relations

Proposed Association* Strategic Priorities

- **Formula Funding and Outcomes** – evaluate the implementation of SB 1786 (89R); devote attention to wage thresholds, ROI,** and data used in the definition of COV
- **Dual Credit Incentives & Pathways** – evaluate state’s current funding methodologies; recommend strategies that strengthen connection between COV and dual credit programs
- **Workforce Education Grants and Tri-Agency Coordination** – strengthen workforce and evaluate targeted investments in aligning education and training programs with high-demand jobs and regional labor market needs

*Texas Association of Community Colleges

**Return on Investment

7

State Relations

Next Steps

- Assess state interim charges
- Collaboratively engage with relevant stakeholders
- Position HCC subject matter experts to timely provide feedback
- Finalize HCC policy agenda
- Seek governing board input and agenda adoption
- Engage external policy advisors

Rationale: Optimize opportunity to successfully adopt and advance an HCC policy agenda during the 90th legislative session



Federal Relations

Appropriations & Grants

- House Appropriations started the FY27 process February 25, 2026
- Continuing Resolution continues to fund the FY26 budget
- HCC submitted a *Community Project Funding request* totaling \$2,304,908
- Congress passed Workforce Pell – anticipate states managing grant

Workforce Pell Implementation

- Program officially begins July 1, 2026
- Findings indicate states will implement Workforce Pell via Offices of Governor and Workforce Agencies
- Negotiated rules are currently available for public comment through April 8, 2026



Federal Relations

Strengthening Community College Training Grants

- DOL* issued on February 17, 2026
- Grant operates to scale statewide high-quality short-term training programs under Workforce Pell
- Eligible applicants include public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Project awards will range between \$6.5 million and \$10.8 million
- Application deadline May 20, 2026

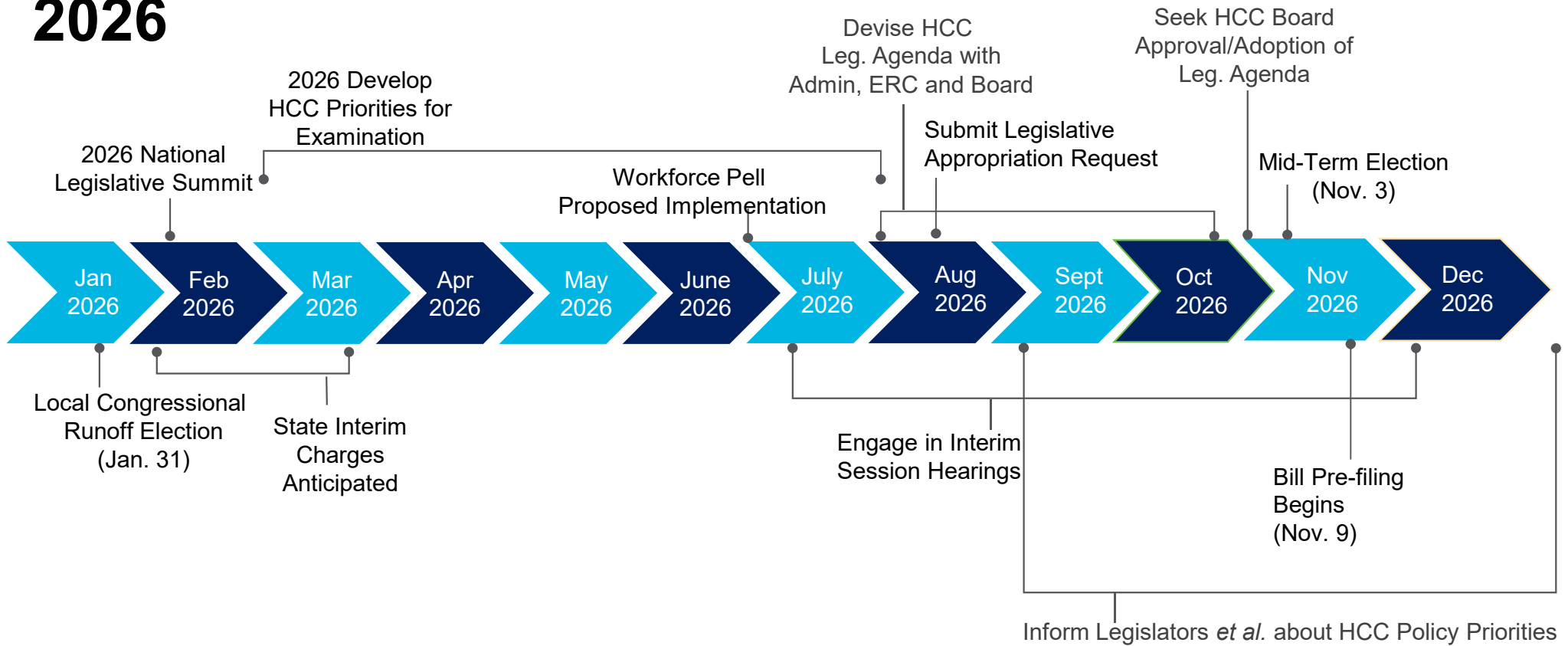
Key Requirements

- Applicants must apply as a consortium
- Consortia must include at least 50% of the state's community colleges
- Lead applicant must be a community college
- Projects must be supported at the state level, to include consideration by the Governor's office

Note: Only one project per state may be funded

*Department of Labor

HCC Legislative Timeline 2026



Thank You