

Certification Submission for SB17 for 2026

DIRECTIONS

Institutions shall use this form to submit the annual certification required by Texas Education Code, Section 51.3525(e) to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Legislature **no later than September 1 of each year.**

The certification submission window will only be available August 1 through August 31.

CONTACT

The institutional contact (and form submitter, if applicable) will receive confirmation upon submission. THECB staff will reach out to the institution if there are questions regarding the submission.

Additional questions about compliance with this statute can be directed to Compliance@highered.texas.gov

**SEC. 51.3525. RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNING BOARDS REGARDING
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES**

(e) An institution of higher education may not spend money appropriated to the institution for a state fiscal year until the governing board of the institution submits to the legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board a report certifying the board's compliance with this section during the preceding state fiscal year.

SB17 Bill Text

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Institution Contact Name *

Institution Contact Email Address *

I certify, under penalty of perjury and the loss of funding to my institution (listed below), that my institution has complied with the requirements in Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525: (insert institutional name below) *

- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(A), this institution does not, except as required by federal law, have any office, division or unit with the established purpose of influencing hiring or employment practices at the institution with respect to race, sex, color, or ethnicity, other than through the use of color-blind and sex-neutral hiring processes in accordance with any applicable state and federal antidiscrimination laws.
- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(A), this institution does not, except as required by federal law, have any office, division or unit with the established purpose of promoting differential treatment of or providing special benefits to individuals on the basis of race, color, or ethnicity.
- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(A), this institution does not, except as required by federal law, have any office, division or unit with the established purpose of promoting policies or procedures designed or implemented in reference to race, color, or ethnicity, other than policies or procedures approved in writing by this institution's general counsel and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the sole purpose of ensuring compliance with any applicable court order or state or federal law; or
- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(A), this institution does not, except as required by federal law, have any office, division or unit with the established purpose of conducting trainings, programs, or activities designed or implemented in reference to race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation, other than trainings, programs, or activities developed by an attorney and approved in writing by this institution's general counsel and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the sole purpose of ensuring compliance with any applicable court order or state or federal law.
- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(B), this institution has not, except as required by federal law, hired or assigned an employee of the institution, or contracted with a third party to perform the duties of a diversity, equity, and inclusion office as defined in Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(a).

- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(C), this institution does not, except as required by federal law, compel, require, induce, or solicit any person to provide a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement or give preferential consideration to any person based on the provision of a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement.
- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(D), this institution does not, except as required by federal law, give preference on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin to an applicant for employment, an employee, or a participant in any function of the institution.
- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(E), this institution does not, except as required by federal law, require any person, as a condition of enrolling at the institution or performing any institution function, to participate in diversity, equity, and inclusion training, which includes a training, program, or activity designed or implemented in reference to race, color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation, unless the training meets the exception in Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(E)(ii).
- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(2), that this institution has adopted policies and procedures for appropriately disciplining, including by termination, an employee or contractor of the institution who engages in conduct in violation of Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(b)(1)(A)-(E).
- ☐ I certify, in accordance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525(e), that no state appropriations to this institution for FY27 have been spent prior to submission of this certification report for FY26 to the Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- ☐ I understand the State Auditor's Office will conduct a compliance audit for this institution and if violations of Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525 are found, this institution must cure the violation within 180 days or become ineligible to receive formula funding increases, institutional enhancements, or exceptional items during the state fiscal biennium immediately following the state fiscal biennium in which the determination is made.

- ☐ I understand the Coordinating Board will forward all complaints regarding an institution's violation of Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525 to the State Auditor's Office for review.

Institutional Actions to Comply with Tex Educ. Code § 51.3525 *

To ensure full compliance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525, in the past fiscal year my institution has conducted the following actions to comply with the statute ([insert a summary below]).

Supporting Documentation to this Certification *

Please upload a signed Electronic Signature Acknowledgment and Consent Form ([found here](#)) for the Institution's President and Board Chair. Also to ensure full compliance with Tex. Educ. Code § 51.3525, attach any supporting documentation to this certification necessary to establish compliance.



Drop your files here

[Browse](#)

- ☐ I certify that all information in this submission is true, accurate, and complete *

Failure to return a certification form to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board by September 1, 2026, will be considered an act of non-compliance with the law and can subject the above referenced institution to all penalties allowed by law.

Signature of the Institution's President *

Date Signed

Signature of the Institution's Board Chair *

Date Signed *

Please provide contact information for the form submitter if different from the institution contact above.

Form Submitter Name

Form Submitter Email

☐ Send me a copy of my responses

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