

OnRamps—Rider 53

General Description:

Rider 53 directs the commissioner to set aside \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2018–2019 biennium to reimburse school districts for costs related to students taking OnRamps dual-enrollment courses. The Texas Education Agency entered into an interagency contract with The University of Texas (UT) at Austin to implement the program.

The purpose of the OnRamps program is to provide an affordable and convenient UT experience for Texas students regardless of their location or their college plans. It also increases the number and diversity of students who engage in learning experiences aligned with the expectations of leading research universities.

In the 2017–18 school year, OnRamps offers the following dual-enrollment courses:

- Research and Writing
- Math
- Discovery PreCalculus
- Mechanics, Heat, and Sound
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Earth, Wind, and Fire: Introduction to Geoscience
- Statistics
- US History 1492–1865
- US History Since 1865
- Reading and Writing the Rhetoric of American Identity
- Thriving in our Digital World - Computer Science

Designed by UT faculty, the college-level courses allow students to earn both high school and college credit if they successfully meet the college course requirements. Local high school teachers who are trained by UT faculty teach the courses in conjunction with UT faculty. Three kinds of teacher training opportunities are provided as part of the program: pre-professional learning, one-day workshops each fall and spring, and two-week summer residential institutes. Additionally, OnRamps teachers are mentored throughout the year by UT faculty.

Authority:

General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 53, 85th Texas Legislature, 2017

Appropriation				
		\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000
Student Tuition	\$295	\$1,999,970.98	\$295	\$1,999,980.00
Total		\$1,999,970.98		\$1,999,980.00
Total Expenditures for the Biennium:				\$3,999,978.00

*Due to rapid growth in program participation, funding was available for only a portion of student tuition in this biennium. Districts were reimbursed \$132.02 per student in 2018; \$111.11 per student is budgeted in 2019.

Resources:

<http://onramps.utexas.edu/>

Participation

2017–18

Districts	74
Campuses	140
Students	15,149
Teachers	331

2016–17

Districts	53
Campuses	108
Students	7,855
Teachers	221