



TEXAS ASSOCIATION of COLLEGIATE REGISTRARS and ADMISSIONS OFFICERS

September 18, 2017

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On behalf of the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRAO), I write in support of the federal Reverse Transfer Efficiency act. This piece of legislation stands to be extremely beneficial in creating an exception under FERPA that would allow for the sharing of student information between two and four-year institutions. In turn, the passing of this legislation would greatly facilitate the awarding of associates degrees and certificates in the state of Texas and in the United States.

As you are aware, the state of Texas legislature enacted a Reverse Transfer bill several years ago that promoted the collaboration between state supported community colleges and four-year universities in order to increase the college degree attainment of students. Through these efforts, the number of two-year degrees awarded in Texas has significantly increased, giving each community college district a firmer ground in receiving completion-based funding.

To some extent, however, FERPA has hindered some of these efforts due to the fact that students have to opt into this process and the sharing of student information has not been as seamless as we would have liked. This proposal of this sort of legislation would create an amendment to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations that would facilitate the sharing of student data between two and four-year institutions, which in turn would have a significant impact in the increase of the education attainment rate in Texas even more.

If I may answer any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact me at irobinson@alvincollege.edu or 281-756-3501.

Sincerely,

Irene Robinson,
President