

Texas Public Policy Foundation

“7 Solutions” Summary

<http://texashighered.com/7-solutions>

1. Measure teaching efficiency and effectiveness.

Goal: Improve the quality of teaching by making use of a public measurement tool to evaluate faculty teaching performance that makes it possible to recognize excellent teachers. View full solution (PDF):

http://www.texashighered.com/files/Breakthrough_Solution_1.pdf

2. Publicly recognize and reward extraordinary teachers.

Goal: Create a financial incentive to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of teaching at Texas' colleges and universities that will help attract the best teachers from across the nation. View full

solution (PDF): http://www.texashighered.com/files/Breakthrough_Solution_2.pdf

3. Split research and teaching budgets to encourage excellence in both.

Goal: Increase transparency and accountability by emphasizing teaching and research as separate efforts in higher education, and making it easier to recognize excellence in each area. View full

solution (PDF): http://www.texashighered.com/files/Breakthrough_Solution_3.pdf

4. Require evidence of teaching skill for tenure.

Goal: Highlight the importance of great teachers by evaluating teaching skill in nominating and awarding faculty tenure. View full solution (PDF): http://www.texashighered.com/files/Breakthrough_Solution_4.pdf

5. Use “results-based” contracts with students to measure quality.

Goal: Increase transparency and accountability to students with learning contracts between Deans, department heads, and teachers that clearly state the promises of each degree program to each

student. View full solution (PDF): http://www.texashighered.com/files/Breakthrough_Solution_5.pdf

6. Put state funding directly in the hands of students.

Goal: Increase college access and make students the actual customers for higher education with student-directed scholarships for undergraduate and graduate education with funding from the state's current appropriation that goes directly to colleges and universities. View full solution (PDF):

http://www.texashighered.com/files/Breakthrough_Solution_6.pdf

7. Create results-based accrediting alternatives.

Goal: Encourage greater competition in higher education and more choices for students by creating an alternative accrediting body that would focus on results and the college's or university's ability to uphold any obligation or promise made to the student. View full solution (PDF):

http://www.texashighered.com/files/Breakthrough_Solution_7.pdf