



Texas Must Defend Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Offices That are Critical to Student Success

SB 17 Prohibits Institutions from Operating DEI Offices and Initiatives

Senate Bill 17 would jeopardize college access and success for hundreds of thousands of Texas students, particularly students who are Black, Latino, first-generation, from low-income backgrounds or LGBTQ+. Research shows that [all students benefit from a diverse teaching force](#).

Major Components of SB 17

- SB 17 bans all diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and policies on college campuses.
- SB 17 removes hiring and leadership decision-making authority from universities and centralizes it with the board of regents.
- SB 17 establishes employment consequences and penalties for accrediting agencies and university employees or contractors who are found to be in violation of this legislation.
- SB 17 allows the state to sue any accreditation agency that penalizes an institution on the basis of its compliance with this legislation.

SB 17 also exempts course instruction, faculty research, student organizations, admissions, guest speakers or data collection from the ban on DEI activities and initiatives.

DEI Offices Are Vital to Students and College Communities

- DEI offices offer programs to support historically-marginalized students in navigating university life, especially students who are Black, Latino, first-generation, and/or LGBTQ+.
- DEI offices help students needing assistance with food, housing, emergency financial aid, textbooks and other resources for student success.
- DEI offices provide opportunities and application guidance for internal and external student scholarships.
- DEI offices coordinate accommodations and resources for students with disabilities.
- DEI offices provide support for veteran students and ensure Title IX compliance.

SB 17 compromises students' academic and social experiences on college campuses and makes college faculty less diverse and inclusive of different backgrounds and ideas.

Stop SB 17 and keep our Texas institutions diverse, inclusive and supportive for all students

The Texas Legislative Education Equity Coalition (TLEEC) is a collaborative of organizations and individuals with the mission to improve the quality of public education for all children, with a focus on racial equity. The coalition convenes organizations and individuals who advocate in the interest of public school students at the local, state and national levels.