The Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund (TCKF) is authorized by the General Appropriations Act (2012–13 Biennium) Article III, Higher Education Special Provisions, Section 56 (GAA). Certain institutions are provided appropriations directly in a strategy named the “Competitive Knowledge Fund”. The GAA prescribes that this funding will be used to support faculty for the purpose of instructional excellence and research. Funding was first allocated in these strategies by the Legislature for the 2008–09 biennium.

Current institutions receiving TCKF appropriations include The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, University of Houston, Texas Tech University, and the University of Texas at Dallas. Institutions are allocated funding appropriated to the TCKF based on average research expenditures for the previous three-year period. In practice, when institutions have first received distributions from the fund, appropriations have been reduced from the institution’s special item strategies. In subsequent biennia, the institution continues to receive appropriations from the TCKF and the reduction in special items is not specifically restored.

### General Revenue Fund Appropriations

The initial 2008–09 structure of the fund provided $1.0 million in General Revenue Funds for every $10.0 million in research expenditures. The Eighty-second Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, appropriated $93.5 million in Texas Competitive Knowledge Fund strategies directly to the institutions. This funding level provides approximately $0.7 million to each eligible institution for every $10.0 million in research expenditures averaged for the previous three-year period.

### Statutory References