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H.B. No. 2344

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing the use of a writing portfolio assessment  
to assess writing performance for public school students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is  
amended by adding Section 39.02301 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.02301. OPTIONAL USE OF WRITING PORTFOLIO  
ASSESSMENT. (a) A school district may elect to use a writing  
portfolio assessment to assess writing performance for students  
enrolled in the district as an alternative to administering the  
portion of a reading assessment instrument under Section 39.023(a)  
or English I or English II end-of-course assessment instrument  
under Section 39.023(c) that is not presented in a multiple choice  
format.

(b) A school district that elects to use a writing portfolio  
assessment under this section shall design the assessment in  
consultation with a public or private institution of higher  
education and submit the assessment to the agency for approval. The  
agency shall approve the assessment if the assessment is:

(1) determined by the public or private institution of  
higher education that consulted on the design of the assessment to  
be valid and reliable; and

(2) designed to assess:

(A) a student's mastery of the essential

1 knowledge and skills in writing through timed writing samples;

2 (B) improvement of a student's writing skills  
3 from the beginning of the school year to the end of the school year;

4 (C) a student's ability to follow the writing  
5 process from rough draft to final product; and

6 (D) a student's ability to produce more than one  
7 type of writing style.

8 (c) A school district that elects to use a writing portfolio  
9 assessment under this section may adopt a policy allowing the  
10 assessment to be scored by a classroom teacher assigned to the same  
11 campus as the student to whom the assessment is administered. The  
12 district may coordinate with the regional education service center  
13 for the district's region in grading the assessments.

14 (d) A school district that elects to use a writing portfolio  
15 assessment under this section is not required to administer the  
16 portion of a reading assessment instrument under Section 39.023(a)  
17 or English I or English II end-of-course assessment instrument  
18 under Section 39.023(c) that is not presented in a multiple choice  
19 format during the period the district is administering the writing  
20 portfolio assessment. The agency shall, to the greatest extent  
21 practicable, apply cost savings that result from the exemption  
22 under this subsection to offset the costs accrued under this  
23 section.

24 (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to  
25 implement this section.

26 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
27 school year.

1           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.