

By: Parker

H.B. No. 3265

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to online learning programs offered by a school district or open-enrollment charter school to students enrolled at a campus of the district or school.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.9091 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.9091. ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAMS. (a) In this section, "electronic course" has the meaning assigned by Section 30A.001.

(b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may establish an online learning program to offer electronic courses that satisfy the curriculum requirements under Section 28.002 to students enrolled in any grade level from kindergarten through grade 12 at a campus of the district or school.

(c) The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school that operates an online learning program under this section may establish eligibility criteria for students to enroll in electronic courses offered through the program. In establishing criteria, a board of trustees or governing body may limit student enrollment in electronic courses to encourage instruction in a traditional classroom setting. For eligible students, the board of trustees or governing body may:

1 (1) limit the number of electronic courses in which
2 the student may enroll; or

3 (2) allow students to enroll full-time in the online
4 learning program.

5 (d) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
6 that operates a program under this section is entitled to funding
7 under Chapter 48 or in accordance with the terms of a charter
8 granted under Section 12.101 for the student's enrollment in an
9 electronic course offered through the program in the same manner
10 the district or school is entitled to funding for the student's
11 enrollment in courses provided in a traditional classroom setting,
12 provided the student successfully completes the electronic course.

13 (e) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may
14 calculate the average daily attendance of a student enrolled in the
15 program based on:

16 (1) hours of contact with the student;

17 (2) the student's successful completion of a course;

18 or

19 (3) a method approved by the commissioner.

20 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
21 school year.

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