

By: West

S.B. No. 452

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prevention and early intervention programs and practices.

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

SECTION 1. Section 264.201(d), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The services may include in-home programs, parenting skills training, youth coping skills, and individual and family counseling. If the department requires or a court orders parenting skills training services through a parenting education program or practice, the program or practice must be an evidence-based program or practice, promising [~~practice parenting education~~] program or practice, or evidence-informed program or practice described by Section 265.151 that is provided in the community in which the family resides, if available.

SECTION 2. Section 265.004(a-1), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) The department shall ensure that not less than 75 percent of the money appropriated for home visitation programs and parenting education programs under Subsection (a) funds evidence-based programs or practices described by Section 265.151(b) and that the remainder of that money funds promising [~~practice~~] programs or practices described by Section 265.151(c) and evidence-informed programs or practices described by Section

1 [265.151](#)(d).

2 SECTION 3. The heading to Subchapter D, Chapter [265](#), Family  
3 Code, is amended to read as follows:

4 SUBCHAPTER D. EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES [~~PARENTING~~  
5 ~~EDUCATION~~]

6 SECTION 4. The heading to Section [265.151](#), Family Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 265.151. REQUIREMENTS FOR [~~PARENTING—EDUCATION~~]  
9 PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES ON EVIDENCE-BASED SPECTRUM.

10 SECTION 5. Section [265.151](#), Family Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read  
12 as follows:

13 (b) An evidence-based program or practice is a [~~parenting~~  
14 ~~education~~] program or practice that:

15 (1) is research-based and grounded in relevant,  
16 empirical knowledge and program-determined outcomes;

17 (2) has comprehensive standards ensuring the highest  
18 quality service delivery with continuous improvement in the quality  
19 of service delivery;

20 (3) has demonstrated significant positive [~~short-term~~  
21 ~~and long-term~~] outcomes;

22 (4) is listed as an evidence-based program or practice  
23 by a nationally recognized clearinghouse associated with a state or  
24 federal agency or an institution of higher education or, during the  
25 preceding 10 years, has been subject to an external evaluation that  
26 showed positive results and was published in peer-reviewed  
27 literature [~~has been evaluated by at least one rigorous, random,~~

1 ~~controlled research trial across heterogeneous populations or~~  
2 ~~communities with research results that have been published in a~~  
3 ~~peer-reviewed journal];~~

4 (5) substantially complies with a program manual or  
5 design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration, and  
6 frequency of the program services; ~~and]~~

7 (6) employs well-trained and competent staff and  
8 provides continual relevant professional development opportunities  
9 to the staff;

10 (7) is associated with a national organization,  
11 institution of higher education, or national or state public health  
12 institute; and

13 (8) demonstrates substantial connections to other  
14 community-based services.

15 (c) A promising ~~[practice]~~ program or practice is a  
16 ~~[parenting education]~~ program or practice that:

17 (1) has an active impact evaluation program or  
18 demonstrates a schedule for implementing an active impact  
19 evaluation program;

20 (2) is listed as a promising program or practice by a  
21 nationally recognized clearinghouse associated with a state or  
22 federal agency or an institution of higher education or, during the  
23 preceding 10 years, has been subject to an external evaluation that  
24 showed positive results and was published in peer-reviewed  
25 literature ~~[has been evaluated by at least one outcome-based study~~  
26 ~~demonstrating effectiveness or random, controlled trial in a~~  
27 ~~homogeneous sample];~~

1           (3) substantially complies with a program manual or  
2 design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration, and  
3 frequency of the program services;

4           (4) employs well-trained and competent staff and  
5 provides continual relevant professional development opportunities  
6 to the staff; ~~and~~

7           (5) is research-based and grounded in relevant,  
8 empirical knowledge and program-determined outcomes; and

9           (6) demonstrates substantial connections to other  
10 community-based services.

11          (d) An evidence-informed program or practice is a program or  
12 practice that:

13           (1) combines well-researched interventions with  
14 clinical experience and ethics, and client preferences and culture,  
15 to guide and inform the delivery of treatments and services;

16           (2) has an active impact evaluation program or  
17 demonstrates a schedule for implementing an active impact  
18 evaluation program;

19           (3) substantially complies with a program manual or  
20 design that specifies the purpose, outcome, duration, and frequency  
21 of the program services; and

22           (4) employs well-trained and competent staff and  
23 provides continual relevant professional development opportunities  
24 to the staff.

25          SECTION 6. Section 265.152, Family Code, is amended to read  
26 as follows:

27          Sec. 265.152. OUTCOMES OF EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION AND

1 EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES [~~PARENTING EDUCATION~~].

2 The department shall ensure that a prevention and early  
3 intervention [~~parenting education~~] program or practice provided  
4 under this subchapter [~~chapter~~] achieves favorable behavioral  
5 outcomes in at least two of the following areas:

6 (1) improved cognitive development of children;

7 (2) increased [~~school~~] readiness for and  
8 participation and performance in school [~~of children~~];

9 (3) reduced child abuse, neglect, and injury;

10 (4) improved child safety;

11 (5) improved social-emotional development of children  
12 and youth;

13 (6) increased protective factors [~~improved parenting~~  
14 ~~skills~~], including nurturing, [~~and~~] bonding, and other parenting  
15 skills;

16 (7) improved family economic self-sufficiency;

17 (8) reduced parental or youth involvement with the  
18 criminal justice system; [~~and~~]

19 (9) increased paternal involvement and support;

20 (10) improved maternal and child health; and

21 (11) increased protective factors for children and  
22 youth.

23 SECTION 7. Section 265.153, Family Code, is amended to read  
24 as follows:

25 Sec. 265.153. EVALUATION OF PREVENTION AND EARLY  
26 INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES [~~EVIDENCE-BASED PARENTING~~  
27 ~~EDUCATION~~]. (a) The department shall adopt outcome indicators to

1 measure the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention  
2 ~~[parenting education]~~ programs and practices provided under this  
3 subchapter ~~[chapter]~~ in achieving desired outcomes.

4 (b) The department may work directly with the model  
5 developer of a prevention and early intervention ~~[parenting~~  
6 ~~education]~~ program or practice to identify appropriate outcome  
7 indicators for the program or practice and to ensure that the  
8 program or practice substantially complies with the model.

9 (c) The department shall develop internal processes to  
10 share information with prevention and early intervention service  
11 providers ~~[parenting education programs]~~ to assist the department  
12 in analyzing the performance of the programs or practices.

13 (d) The department shall use information obtained under  
14 this section to:

15 (1) monitor prevention and early intervention  
16 ~~[parenting education]~~ programs and practices;

17 (2) continually improve the quality of the programs  
18 and practices; and

19 (3) evaluate the effectiveness of the programs and  
20 practices.

21 SECTION 8. Section 265.154, Family Code, is amended to read  
22 as follows:

23 Sec. 265.154. REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE. (a) Not later than  
24 December 1 of each even-numbered year, the department shall prepare  
25 and submit a report on state-funded prevention and early  
26 intervention ~~[parenting education]~~ programs and practices to the  
27 standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with

1 jurisdiction over child protective services.

2 (b) A report submitted under this section must include:

3 (1) a description of the prevention and early  
4 intervention [~~parenting—education~~] programs and practices  
5 implemented and of the models associated with the programs and  
6 practices;

7 (2) information on the families served by the programs  
8 and practices, including the number of families served and their  
9 demographic information;

10 (3) the goals and achieved outcomes of the implemented  
11 programs and practices;

12 (4) information on the cost for each family served,  
13 including any available third-party return-on-investment analysis;  
14 and

15 (5) information explaining the percentage of money  
16 spent on evidence-based programs and practices, on promising  
17 [~~practice~~] programs and practices, and on evidence-informed  
18 programs and practices.

19 SECTION 9. Section 265.151(a), Family Code, is repealed.

20 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.