

By: West, et al.

S.B. No. 1277

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an agreement between a school district and public
3 institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to
4 high school students enrolled in the district.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 28.009(b-2), Education Code, as amended
7 by Chapters 264 (S.B. 1276) and 901 (H.B. 3650), Acts of the 86th
8 Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is reenacted and amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (b-2) Any agreement, including a memorandum of
11 understanding or articulation agreement, between a school district
12 and public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit
13 program described by Subsection (b-1) must:

14 (1) include specific program goals aligned with the
15 statewide goals developed under Subsection (b-1);

16 (2) establish common advising strategies and
17 terminology related to dual credit and college readiness;

18 (3) provide for the alignment of endorsements
19 described by Section 28.025(c-1) offered by the district, and dual
20 credit courses offered under the agreement that apply towards those
21 endorsements, with postsecondary pathways and credentials at the
22 institution and industry certifications;

23 (4) identify tools, including tools developed by the
24 agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, or the Texas

1 Workforce Commission, to assist school counselors, students, and
2 families in selecting endorsements offered by the district and dual
3 credit courses offered under the agreement;

4 (5) establish, or provide a procedure for
5 establishing, the course credits that may be earned under the
6 agreement, including by developing a course equivalency crosswalk
7 or other method for equating high school courses with college
8 courses and identifying the number of credits that may be earned for
9 each course completed through the program;

10 (6) describe the academic supports and, if applicable,
11 guidance that will be provided to students participating in the
12 program;

13 (7) establish the district's and the institution's
14 respective roles and responsibilities in providing the program and
15 ensuring the quality and instructional rigor of the program;

16 (8) state the sources of funding for courses offered
17 under the program, including, at a minimum, the sources of funding
18 for tuition, transportation, and any required fees or textbooks for
19 students participating in the program;

20 (9) require the district and the institution to
21 consider the use of free or low-cost open educational resources in
22 courses offered under the program; ~~and~~

23 (10) [~~(7)~~] be posted each year on the district's and
24 the institution's respective Internet websites; and

25 (11) designate at least one employee of the district
26 or institution as responsible for providing academic advising to a
27 student who enrolls in a dual credit course under the program before

1 the student begins the course.

2 SECTION 2. Section 28.009(b-2), Education Code, as
3 reenacted and amended by this Act, applies only to an agreement to
4 provide a dual credit program entered into or renewed on or after
5 September 1, 2021. An agreement to provide a dual credit program
6 entered into or renewed before September 1, 2021, is governed by the
7 law as it existed at the time the agreement was entered into or
8 renewed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

9 SECTION 3. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails
10 over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021,
11 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
12 codes.

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