

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 1504

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the automatic admission of students with a
3 nontraditional secondary education to certain public institutions
4 of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 51.803, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (m) to read as
8 follows:

9 (a) Subject to Subsection (a-1), each general academic
10 teaching institution shall admit an applicant for admission to the
11 institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant graduated
12 with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's
13 high school graduating class in one of the two school years
14 preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for
15 admission and:

16 (1) the applicant:

17 (A) graduated from a public or private high
18 school in this state accredited by a generally recognized
19 accrediting organization or from a high school operated by the
20 United States Department of Defense; or

21 (B) completed a nontraditional secondary
22 education as defined by Section 51.9241;

23 (2) the applicant:

24 (A) successfully completed:

1 (i) at a public high school, the curriculum
2 requirements established under Section 28.025 for the
3 distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school
4 program; or

5 (ii) at a high school to which Section
6 28.025 does not apply, a curriculum that is equivalent in content
7 and rigor to the distinguished level of achievement under the
8 foundation high school program; or

9 (B) satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks
10 on the ACT assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the
11 SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the
12 equivalent; and

13 (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school
14 operated by the United States Department of Defense, the applicant
15 is a Texas resident under Section 54.052 or is entitled to pay
16 tuition fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section
17 54.241(d) for the term or semester to which admitted.

18 (m) In determining the eligibility for admission under this
19 section of an applicant with a nontraditional secondary education,
20 as defined by Section 51.9241, that does not include a high school
21 graduating class ranking, a general academic teaching institution
22 shall calculate the applicant's class rank in the manner provided
23 by Section 51.9241(d).

24 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply
25 beginning with admissions to a public institution of higher
26 education for the 2024 fall semester. Admissions to a public
27 institution of higher education for a term or semester before the

1 2024 fall semester are governed by the law in effect immediately
2 before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is
3 continued in effect for that purpose.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.