

1-1 By: Gates, et al. H.B. No. 20  
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Schwertner, et al.)  
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 16, 2025;  
 1-4 April 23, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-5 Education K-16; May 27, 2025, reported favorably by the following  
 1-6 vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 27, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program.  
 1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
 1-24 SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 29, Education Code, is  
 1-25 amended by adding Section 29.914 to read as follows:  
 1-26 Sec. 29.914. APPLIED SCIENCES PATHWAY PROGRAM. (a) In this  
 1-27 section:  
 1-28 (1) "Certificate program" and "institution of higher  
 1-29 education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.  
 1-30 (2) "Program" means the Applied Sciences Pathway  
 1-31 program established under this section.  
 1-32 (b) The commissioner shall establish and administer the  
 1-33 Applied Sciences Pathway program to provide opportunities for  
 1-34 students to concurrently earn high school diplomas and certificates  
 1-35 from institutions of higher education.  
 1-36 (c) The commissioner shall approve for participation in the  
 1-37 program partnerships between school districts or open-enrollment  
 1-38 charter schools and institutions of higher education to provide  
 1-39 courses in a non-duplicative sequence of progressive achievement  
 1-40 that lead to:  
 1-41 (1) a high school diploma; and  
 1-42 (2) completion of a certificate program with a  
 1-43 successful job placement rate in high-wage, high-growth jobs in one  
 1-44 of the following industries:  
 1-45 (A) plumbing and pipe fitting;  
 1-46 (B) electrical;  
 1-47 (C) welding;  
 1-48 (D) sheet metal;  
 1-49 (E) carpentry;  
 1-50 (F) masonry;  
 1-51 (G) diesel and heavy equipment;  
 1-52 (H) aviation maintenance;  
 1-53 (I) heating, ventilation, and air conditioning;  
 1-54 (J) construction management and inspection;  
 1-55 (K) mechanical and aerospace engineering;  
 1-56 (L) industrial maintenance and processes;  
 1-57 (M) robotics and automation;  
 1-58 (N) information technology and cybersecurity;  
 1-59 (O) oil and gas exploration and production;  
 1-60 (P) refining and chemical processes;  
 1-61 (Q) transportation distribution and logistics;  
 1-62 (R) manufacturing and industrial technology;  
 1-63 (S) electronics technology; or  
 1-64 (T) automotive technology.

2-1 (c-1) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the  
2-2 commissioner may revise the industries approved for purposes of  
2-3 Subsection (c)(2) once every five years to reflect current labor  
2-4 market trends.

2-5 (d) A partnership participating in the program must:  
2-6 (1) enable the school district or open-enrollment  
2-7 charter school to provide at least one course of study described by  
2-8 Subsection (c) through a partnership with an institution of higher  
2-9 education under the program;

2-10 (2) provide for a course of study described by  
2-11 Subsection (c) that enables a participating student in grade level  
2-12 11 or 12 to concurrently:

2-13 (A) enroll in a certificate program described by  
2-14 Subsection (c)(2) at the partnering institution of higher education  
2-15 under which the student may receive instruction from an instructor  
2-16 employed by the institution and any appropriate work-based learning  
2-17 opportunities from the institution and earn:

2-18 (i) a level one or level two certificate, as  
2-19 defined by the commissioner; or

2-20 (ii) another certificate approved by  
2-21 commissioner rule; and

2-22 (B) satisfy high school graduation requirements  
2-23 and receive a high school diploma;

2-24 (3) require the partnering school district or  
2-25 open-enrollment charter school to permit all district or school  
2-26 students in grade level 11 or 12 to enroll in a course of study  
2-27 provided under Subdivision (2);

2-28 (4) be governed by an articulation agreement between  
2-29 the partnering school district or open-enrollment charter school  
2-30 and institution of higher education; and

2-31 (5) meet any other requirements established by  
2-32 commissioner rule.

2-33 (e) The commissioner may approve the substitution of a  
2-34 credit in a subject area required for high school graduation under  
2-35 Section 28.025 with a credit in a career and technology education  
2-36 course provided by an institution of higher education under the  
2-37 program that substantially covers the essential knowledge and  
2-38 skills of the course for which it is substituted. This subsection  
2-39 may not be construed to limit the number of substituted credits a  
2-40 student may earn while participating in the program.

2-41 (f) A career and technology education course authorized as a  
2-42 substitute credit under Subsection (e) may not count:

2-43 (1) for more than one credit toward the student's high  
2-44 school graduation requirements; or

2-45 (2) as a credit for more than one subject area.

2-46 (g) Time that a student spends participating in the program  
2-47 is counted as part of the minimum number of instructional hours  
2-48 required for a student to be considered a full-time student in  
2-49 average daily attendance for purposes of Section 48.005.

2-50 (h) This section may not be construed to:

2-51 (1) prevent a student's participation in career and  
2-52 technology education or dual credit courses before the student  
2-53 begins participating in the program; or

2-54 (2) authorize the commissioner to require approval by  
2-55 the commissioner for partnerships between school districts or  
2-56 open-enrollment charter schools and institutions of higher  
2-57 education for purposes other than the program, including  
2-58 partnerships to provide dual credit courses.

2-59 (i) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to  
2-60 administer the program.

2-61 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026  
2-62 school year.

2-63 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-64 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-65 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-66 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-67 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-68 \* \* \* \* \*