

By: West, Miles

S.B. No. 2561

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the student success initiative program by the Texas Education Agency and the award of grants under that program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.935 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.935. STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE PROGRAM; GRANTS.

(a) The agency, in collaboration with qualified experts in the areas of child and youth mental health and education, shall develop a student success initiative program based on evidence-based best practices to:

(1) support youth well-being and educational outcomes; and

(2) increase the number of students performing at grade level by providing academic, community, and governmental supports.

(b) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the commissioner shall provide technical assistance and award grants to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that implement the program developed under Subsection (a).

(c) In awarding grants under Subsection (b), the commissioner shall:

(1) award 75 percent of the amount available during

each school year to school districts that serve a population of 100,000 students or more; and

(2) prioritize school districts and open-enrollment charter schools with high percentages of students who:

(A) do not perform satisfactorily on assessment instruments administered under Section 39.023; or

(B) are educationally disadvantaged.

(d) The commissioner may use not more than 10 percent of the money appropriated for purposes of this section to cover the cost of administering this section.

(e) The agency shall annually submit to the legislature a report on the impact of the student success initiative program and best practices learned from the program.

(f) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section, including rules establishing:

(1) application criteria for receipt of a grant under this section; and

(2) allowable uses of grant money by a school district or open-enrollment charter school under this section, which must include supports for students such as tutoring, mentoring, and other educational opportunities outside of the district or school.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.