

AN ACT

relating to career and technology education and training.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11.251(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The board shall adopt a policy to establish a district- and campus-level planning and decision-making process that will involve the professional staff of the district, parents, and community members in establishing and reviewing the district's and campuses' educational plans, goals, performance objectives, and major classroom instructional programs. The board shall establish a procedure under which meetings are held regularly by district- and campus-level planning and decision-making committees that include representative professional staff, parents of students enrolled in the district, business representatives, and community members. The committees shall include a business representative [~~representatives,~~] without regard to whether the [~~a business~~] representative resides in the district or whether the business the person represents is located in the district. The board, or the board's designee, shall periodically meet with the district-level committee to review the district-level committee's deliberations.

SECTION 2. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (n) to read as follows:

1 (n) The State Board of Education may by rule develop and
2 implement a plan designed to incorporate foundation curriculum
3 requirements into the career and technology education curriculum
4 under Subsection (a)(2)(F).

5 SECTION 3. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 29.187 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.187. AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT IN CAREER
8 AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION; PROGRAM. (a) In addition to the
9 authority granted under Section 29.183, the board of trustees of a
10 school district may develop and offer a program that provides a
11 rigorous course of study consistent with the required curriculum
12 under Section 28.002 and under which a student may:

13 (1) receive specific education in a career and
14 technology profession that:

15 (A) leads to postsecondary education; or

16 (B) meets or exceeds business or industry
17 standards; and

18 (2) obtain from the district an award for
19 distinguished achievement in career and technology education and a
20 stamp or other notation on the student's transcript that indicates
21 receipt of the award.

22 (b) An award granted under this section is not in lieu of a
23 diploma or certificate of coursework completion issued under
24 Section 28.025.

25 (c) In developing a program under this section, the board of
26 trustees of a school district shall consider the state plan for
27 career and technology education required under Section 29.182.

1 (d) The board of trustees of a school district may contract
2 with an entity listed in Section 29.184(a) for assistance in
3 developing the program or providing instruction to district
4 students participating in the program.

5 (e) The board of trustees of a school district may also
6 contract with a local business or a local institution of higher
7 education for assistance in developing or operating a program under
8 this section. A program may provide education in areas of
9 technology unique to the local area.

10 (f) The board of trustees of a school district may provide
11 insurance to protect a business that contracts with the district
12 under Subsection (e) against liability for a bodily injury
13 sustained by or the death of a district student while working for
14 the business as part of a program established under this section.
15 The board shall notify the parent or guardian of each student
16 working for a business if the board provides insurance to the
17 business under this subsection. The amount of insurance the
18 district provides must be reasonable considering the financial
19 condition of the district. The insurance must be:

20 (1) obtained from a reliable insurer authorized to
21 engage in business in the state; and

22 (2) submitted on a form approved by the commissioner
23 of insurance.

24 (g) If a business that contracts with a district under
25 Subsection (e) obtains any insurance related to the student other
26 than liability insurance, any proceeds of the insurance must be
27 used for the benefit of the student and the student's family.

1 (h) The board of trustees of a school district must submit a
2 proposed program under this section to the commissioner of
3 education in accordance with criteria established by the
4 commissioner.

5 SECTION 4. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 29.188 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.188. RECOGNITION OF SUCCESSFUL CAREER AND
8 TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM. The governor is encouraged to
9 present a proclamation or certificate to each member of the
10 business and industry community that the Texas Workforce
11 Commission, in cooperation with the agency, determines has
12 successfully assisted in the provision of a career and technology
13 education program under this subchapter.

14 SECTION 5. Section 41.122(a), Education Code, is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (a) After first executing an agreement under this
17 subchapter other than an agreement under Section 41.125, the board
18 of trustees of the district that will be educating nonresident
19 students shall order and conduct an election, in the manner
20 provided by Sections 13.003(d)-(g), to obtain voter approval of the
21 agreement.

22 SECTION 6. Section 41.123, Education Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Sec. 41.123. WADA COUNT. For purposes of Chapter 42,
25 students served under an agreement under this subchapter are
26 counted only in the weighted average daily attendance of the
27 district providing the services, except that students served under

1 an agreement authorized by Section 41.125 are counted in a manner
2 determined by the commissioner.

3 SECTION 7. Subchapter E, Chapter 41, Education Code, is
4 amended by adding Section 41.125 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 41.125. CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
6 PROGRAMS. (a) The board of trustees of a school district with a
7 wealth per student that exceeds the equalized wealth level may
8 reduce the district's wealth per student by executing an agreement
9 to provide students of one or more other districts with career and
10 technology education through a program designated as an area
11 program for career and technology education.

12 (b) The agreement is not effective unless the commissioner
13 certifies that:

14 (1) implementation of the agreement will not result in
15 any of the affected districts' wealth per student being greater
16 than the equalized wealth level; and

17 (2) the agreement requires the district with a wealth
18 per student that exceeds the equalized wealth level to make
19 expenditures benefiting students from other districts in an amount
20 at least equal to the amount that would be required for the district
21 to purchase the number of attendance credits under Subchapter D
22 necessary, in combination with any other actions taken under this
23 chapter other than an action under this section, to reduce the
24 district's wealth per student to a level that is equal to or less
25 than the equalized wealth level.

26 SECTION 8. Section 61.077(b), Education Code, is amended to
27 read as follows:

1 (b) The purposes of this committee shall include the
2 following:

3 (1) to advise the two boards on the coordination of
4 postsecondary career and technology education and the articulation
5 between postsecondary career and technology education and
6 secondary career and technology education;

7 (2) to facilitate the transfer of responsibilities for
8 the administration of postsecondary career and technology
9 education from the State Board of Education to the board in
10 accordance with Section 111(a)(I) of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational
11 Education Act, Public Law 98-524;

12 (3) to cooperate with [~~advise~~] the commissioner of
13 higher education and the State Board of Education, when it acts as
14 the State Board for Career and Technology Education, on the
15 following:

16 (A) the transfer of federal funds to the board
17 for allotment to eligible public postsecondary institutions of
18 higher education;

19 (B) the career and technology education funding
20 for projects and institutions as determined by the board when the
21 State Board for Career and Technology Education is required by
22 federal law to endorse such determinations;

23 (C) the development and updating of the state
24 plan for career and technology education and the evaluation of
25 programs, services, and activities of postsecondary career and
26 technology education and such amendments to the state plan for
27 career and technology education as may relate to postsecondary

1 education;

2 (D) other matters related to postsecondary
3 career and technology education; and

4 (E) the coordination of curricula, instructional
5 programs, research, and other functions as appropriate, including
6 areas listed in Section 61.076 [~~of this code~~], school-to-work and
7 school-to-college transition programs, and professional
8 development activities; and

9 (4) to advise the Council on Workforce and Economic
10 Competitiveness on educational policy issues related to workforce
11 preparation.

12 SECTION 9. Subchapter D, Chapter 301, Labor Code, is
13 amended by adding Section 301.0611 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 301.0611. COORDINATION OF CERTAIN AWARDS AND
15 INCENTIVES. The commission, in cooperation with the Texas
16 Education Agency, the comptroller, and the Texas Higher Education
17 Coordinating Board, shall prepare and make available to the public
18 a list of all awards and incentives available for business
19 participation in:

20 (1) a school district's career and technology
21 education program under Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code;
22 or

23 (2) any other career and technology education
24 training.

25 SECTION 10. It is the intent of the legislature that public
26 schools provide career and technology education by teaching
27 fundamental academic skills and providing practical, hands-on

1 learning experiences. Career and technology education should not
2 include mandatory career-tracking for students or result in
3 professional certification instead of receipt of a high school
4 diploma. The purpose of career and technology education is to
5 prepare students for postsecondary educational opportunities and
6 high-skill, high-wage employment opportunities.

7 SECTION 11. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, except
8 that Sections 1 and 3 take effect immediately and apply beginning
9 with the 2003-2004 school year if this Act receives a vote of
10 two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by
11 Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not
12 receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, Sections 1 and 3
13 take effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 242 was passed by the House on April 1, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 242 was passed by the Senate on May 6, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor