

By: Olivo

H.B. No. 336

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for a high school diploma.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.025(a), (c), and (d), Education Code, as amended by Chapters 187 and 834, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, are amended and reenacted to read as follows:

(a) The State Board of Education by rule shall determine curriculum requirements for the minimum, recommended, and advanced high school programs that are consistent with the required curriculum under Section 28.002.

(c) A person may receive a diploma if the person is eligible for a diploma under Section 28.0251. In other cases, a ~~[A]~~ student may graduate and receive a diploma only if:

(1) the student successfully completes the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education under Subsection (a) and:

(A) complies with Section 39.025(a); or
(B) meets the alternative graduation criteria
prescribed under Section 28.0252; or

(2) the student successfully completes an individualized education program developed under Section 29.005.

(d) A school district may issue a certificate of coursework completion to a student who successfully completes the curriculum

1 requirements identified by the State Board of Education under
2 Subsection (a) but who fails to comply with Section 39.025(a) or the
3 alternative graduation criteria under Section 28.0252. A school
4 district may allow a student who receives a certificate to
5 participate in a graduation ceremony with students receiving high
6 school diplomas.

7 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 28.0252 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 28.0252. ALTERNATIVE GRADUATION CRITERIA. (a) The
10 commissioner by rule shall prescribe alternative graduation
11 criteria that a student may meet to graduate and receive a diploma
12 without complying with Section 39.025(a). The alternative
13 graduation criteria must be compensatory criteria. The alternative
14 graduation criteria must include a student's:

- 15 (1) grade point average beginning in grade 9;
16 (2) current class ranking;
17 (3) performance on the individual assessment
18 instruments specified in Section 39.025(a);
19 (4) combined scores, using only the student's highest
20 scores, on the assessment instruments specified in Section
21 39.025(a); and
22 (5) overall academic performance beginning in grade 9,
23 as evaluated by two or more of the student's teachers.

24 (b) A committee composed of the student's high school
25 principal or the principal's designee and two certified teachers in
26 the student's school district who teach at the high school level
27 shall determine whether a student who has not complied with Section

1 39.025(a) has met the alternative graduation criteria prescribed
2 under Subsection (a). The commissioner shall adopt rules relating
3 to the selection and operation of a committee under this
4 subsection, including the method by which the committee must notify
5 the student and the student's high school registrar, or the person
6 performing the duties of a registrar, of the committee's decision.

7 (c) A committee established under Subsection (b) shall
8 determine whether a student who has not complied with Section
9 39.025(a) has met the alternative graduation criteria prescribed
10 under Subsection (a):

11 (1) following the first administration to the student
12 of the assessment instruments specified in Section 39.025(a);

13 (2) on written request of the student's parent or
14 guardian, not more than one time in each school year following the
15 school year in which the assessment instruments specified in
16 Section 39.025(a) are first administered to the student; and

17 (3) when the principal of the student's high school, or
18 the principal's designee, determines that the student is within one
19 month of completing each requirement for a high school diploma
20 other than compliance with Section 39.025(a).

21 SECTION 3. (a) Section 28.025, Education Code, as amended
22 by this Act, and Section 28.0252, Education Code, as added by this
23 Act, apply beginning with the 2004-2005 school year.

24 (b) Not later than June 1, 2004, the commissioner of
25 education shall adopt rules as required by Sections 28.0252(a) and
26 (b), Education Code, as added by this Act.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.