

By: Smith of Tarrant

H.B. No. 838

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student preparedness for higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.803, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

(a) Each general academic teaching institution shall admit an applicant for admission to the institution as an undergraduate student if the applicant:

(1) graduated ~~[with a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and the applicant graduated]~~ from:

(A) a public or private high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization; or

(B) ~~[from]~~ a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense ~~[- To qualify for admission under this section, an applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any application filing deadline established by the institution and],~~ if the applicant is ~~[graduated from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense, must be]~~ a Texas resident under Section 54.052 or is ~~[be]~~ entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section

1 54.058(d) for the term or semester to which admitted;

2 (2) beginning with admissions for the 2008-2009
3 academic year, completed the curriculum requirements established
4 under Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced high school
5 program or an equivalent curriculum at a high school to which that
6 section does not apply; and

7 (3) in one of the two school years preceding the
8 academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission,
9 graduated with a grade point average in:

10 (A) the top 10 percent of the student's high
11 school graduating class for admissions for an academic year before
12 the 2008-2009 academic year; or

13 (B) beginning with admissions for the 2008-2009
14 academic year, the top 15 percent of those in the student's high
15 school graduating class who completed the curriculum requirements
16 established under Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced
17 high school program or an equivalent curriculum at a high school to
18 which that section does not apply.

19 (a-1) To qualify for admission under this section, an
20 applicant must submit an application before the expiration of any
21 application filing deadline established by the institution.

22 (a-2) Notwithstanding Subsections (a)(2) and (3), a student
23 who graduates from high school in the 2006-2007 academic year with a
24 grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high
25 school graduating class is covered by Subsection (a)(3)(A) and is
26 not covered by Subsection (a)(2) with respect to admission of the
27 student for the 2008-2009 academic year. This subsection expires

1 January 1, 2010.

2 SECTION 2. Section 51.804, Education Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 Sec. 51.804. ADDITIONAL AUTOMATIC ADMISSIONS: SELECTED
5 INSTITUTIONS. For each academic year, the governing board of each
6 general academic teaching institution shall determine whether to
7 adopt an admissions policy under which an applicant to the
8 institution as a first-time freshman student, other than an
9 applicant eligible for admission under Section 51.803, shall be
10 admitted to the institution if the applicant graduated with a grade
11 point average in the top 25 percent of the applicant's high school
12 graduating class and the applicant:

13 (1) graduated from a public or private high school in
14 this state accredited by a generally recognized accrediting
15 organization; and

16 (2) beginning with admissions for the 2008-2009
17 academic year, completed the curriculum requirements established
18 under Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced high school
19 program or an equivalent curriculum at a high school to which that
20 section does not apply [~~with a grade point average in the top 25~~
21 ~~percent of the applicant's high school graduating class~~].

22 SECTION 3. Section 51.805, Education Code, is amended by
23 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to
24 read as follows:

25 (b) Subject to Subsection (b-1), a [~~The~~] general academic
26 teaching institution, after admitting students under Sections
27 51.803 and 51.804, shall admit other applicants for admission as

1 undergraduate students.

2 (b-1) Beginning with admissions for the 2008-2009 academic
3 year, a general academic teaching institution may admit a student
4 under this section only if the student has completed:

5 (1) the curriculum requirements established under
6 Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced high school program
7 or an equivalent curriculum at a high school to which that section
8 does not apply; or

9 (2) at least 24 semester credit hours in the core
10 curriculum established under Section 61.822.

11 (b-2) It is the intent of the legislature that all
12 institutions of higher education pursue academic excellence by
13 considering students' academic achievements in decisions related
14 to admissions. Because of changing demographic trends, diversity,
15 and population increases in the state, each general academic
16 teaching institution shall also consider all of, any of, or a
17 combination of the following socioeconomic indicators or factors in
18 making first-time freshman admissions decisions:

19 (1) the applicant's academic record;

20 (2) the socioeconomic background of the applicant,
21 including the percentage by which the applicant's family is above
22 or below any recognized measure of poverty, the applicant's
23 household income, and the applicant's parents' level of education;

24 (3) whether the applicant would be the first
25 generation of the applicant's family to attend or graduate from an
26 institution of higher education;

27 (4) whether the applicant has bilingual proficiency;

1 (5) the financial status of the applicant's school
2 district;

3 (6) the performance level of the applicant's school as
4 determined by the school accountability criteria used by the Texas
5 Education Agency;

6 (7) the applicant's responsibilities while attending
7 school, including whether the applicant has been employed, whether
8 the applicant has helped to raise children, or other similar
9 factors;

10 (8) the applicant's region of residence;

11 (9) whether the applicant is a resident of a rural or
12 urban area or a resident of a central city or suburban area in the
13 state;

14 (10) the applicant's performance on standardized
15 tests;

16 (11) the applicant's performance on standardized tests
17 in comparison with that of other students from similar
18 socioeconomic backgrounds;

19 (12) whether the applicant attended any school while
20 the school was under a court-ordered desegregation plan;

21 (13) the applicant's involvement in community
22 activities;

23 (14) the applicant's extracurricular activities;

24 (15) the applicant's commitment to a particular field
25 of study;

26 (16) the applicant's personal interview;

27 (17) the applicant's admission to a comparable

1 accredited out-of-state institution; and

2 (18) any other consideration the institution
3 considers necessary to accomplish the institution's stated
4 mission.

5 SECTION 4. Section 51.807, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.807. RULEMAKING. (a) The Texas Higher Education
8 Coordinating Board may adopt rules relating to the operation of
9 admissions programs under this subchapter, including rules
10 relating to the identification of eligible students and the
11 reporting requirements of Section 51.806.

12 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board after
13 consulting with the Texas Education Agency by rule shall establish
14 standards for determining for purposes of this subchapter:

15 (1) whether a private high school is accredited by a
16 generally accepted accrediting organization; and

17 (2) whether a person completed a high school
18 curriculum that is equivalent to the curriculum established under
19 Section 28.025 for the recommended or advanced high school program.

20 SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 7, Education Code, is
21 amended by adding Section 7.060 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 7.060. RESEARCH ON HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
23 SKILLS ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS. From money
24 appropriated for the purpose and in addition to grants awarded
25 under Section 7.058, the commissioner shall award to one or more
26 institutions that have demonstrated an ability to conduct research
27 on effective instruction techniques that improve the performance of

1 high school students in mathematics and science a grant to be used
2 to:

3 (1) develop and identify research on mathematics and
4 science skills acquisition and student learning in mathematics and
5 science;

6 (2) monitor the effectiveness of professional
7 development institutes under Section 21.457 based on performance in
8 mathematics and science by the students of teachers who have
9 attended an institute;

10 (3) examine the effect of the professional development
11 institutes on the classroom performance of teachers who have
12 attended an institute;

13 (4) identify common practices used at high-performing
14 school campuses that lead to improved student performance in high
15 school mathematics and science; and

16 (5) develop research on cognitive development in high
17 school students concerning mathematics and science skills
18 development.

19 SECTION 6. The heading to Section 21.455, Education Code,
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 Sec. 21.455. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES IN
22 MATHEMATICS FOR MIDDLE GRADES.

23 SECTION 7. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
24 amended by adding Sections 21.456 and 21.457 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 21.456. HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TRAINING.

26 (a) In addition to the requirements for mathematics training
27 established under Section 21.454, the commissioner shall develop

1 training materials and other teacher training resources for a
2 school district to use in assisting high school mathematics and
3 science teachers in developing:

4 (1) expertise in high school Algebra I, geometry,
5 biology, chemistry, and physics curricula; and

6 (2) comprehension of the instruction techniques that
7 have been proven effective in improving student high school Algebra
8 I, geometry, biology, chemistry, and physics learning.

9 (b) The commissioner shall develop materials and resources
10 under this section in consultation with appropriate faculty members
11 at institutions of higher education.

12 (c) The commissioner shall make the training materials and
13 other teacher training resources required under Subsection (a)
14 available to high school mathematics and science teachers through a
15 variety of mechanisms, including distance learning, mentoring
16 programs, small group inquiries, computer-assisted training, and
17 mechanisms based on trainer-of-trainer models.

18 (d) The commissioner shall use money appropriated for the
19 purpose to administer this section.

20 Sec. 21.457. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES IN HIGH
21 SCHOOL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE. (a) The commissioner shall
22 develop and make available professional development institutes for
23 teachers who provide instruction in mathematics and science to
24 students at the high school level.

25 (b) A professional development institute developed under
26 this section must address:

27 (1) the underlying mathematics and science skills

1 required to be taught in high school Algebra I, geometry, biology,
2 chemistry, and physics, as applicable; and

3 (2) mathematics and science instruction techniques
4 that have been proven effective.

5 (c) The commissioner shall develop professional development
6 institutes under this section in consultation with mathematics and
7 science faculty members at institutions of higher education.

8 (d) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selection of
9 teachers authorized to attend a professional development institute
10 developed under this section.

11 (e) From money appropriated for the purpose, the
12 commissioner shall pay a stipend to each teacher who completes a
13 professional development institute developed under this section.
14 The commissioner shall determine the amount of the stipend paid
15 under this subsection.

16 SECTION 8. Section 28.026, Education Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 28.026. NOTICE OF AUTOMATIC COLLEGE ADMISSION. The
19 board of trustees of a school district shall require each high
20 school in the district to post appropriate signs in each
21 counselor's office, in each principal's office, and in each
22 administrative building indicating the substance of Section 51.803
23 regarding automatic college admission. To assist in the
24 dissemination of this information, the school district shall:

25 (1) require that each high school counselor and class
26 advisor be provided a detailed explanation of the substance of
27 Section 51.803;

1 (2) require that each high school counselor and
2 [~~senior~~] class advisor explain to [~~eligible~~] students the substance
3 of Section 51.803; and

4 (3) provide each eligible senior student under Section
5 51.803, at the commencement of a class's senior year, with a written
6 notification of the student's eligibility with a detailed
7 explanation of the substance of Section 51.803.

8 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.