

By: Howard

H.B. No. 841

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the public education grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.2011 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.2011. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "parent" includes a guardian or custodian.

SECTION 2. Section 29.203(d), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) A school district chosen by a student's parent under Section 29.201 is entitled to ~~[accept or]~~ reject the application for the student to attend school in that district only if 95 percent or more of the available positions for the grade level for which the student is applying are filled. The district ~~[but]~~ may not use criteria that discriminate on the basis of a student's race, ethnicity, academic achievement, athletic abilities, language proficiency, sex, or socioeconomic status. A school district that has more acceptable applicants for attendance under this subchapter than available positions must give priority to students at risk of dropping out of school as defined by Section 29.081 and must fill the available positions by lottery. However, to achieve continuity in education, a school district may give preference over at-risk students to enrolled students and to the siblings of enrolled students residing in the same household or other children residing

1 in the same household as enrolled students for the convenience of  
2 parents[~~, guardians, or custodians~~] of those children.

3 SECTION 3. Section 29.204(b), Education Code, is amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (b) Not later than February 1 of each year, a school  
6 district shall notify in writing the parent of each student in the  
7 district assigned to attend a campus described by Section 29.202  
8 that the student is eligible for a public education grant. Not  
9 later than May 1 of each year, a district shall notify in writing  
10 the parent of each student who is registered for the following  
11 school year to attend kindergarten at a district campus described  
12 by Section 29.202 that the student is eligible for a public  
13 education grant. The notice under this subsection must contain a  
14 clear, concise explanation of the public education grant program  
15 and of the manner in which the parent may obtain further information  
16 about the program.

17 SECTION 4. Sections 29.203(c) and 42.4101, Education Code,  
18 are repealed.

19 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004  
20 school year.

21 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.