

By: Turner

H.B. No. 2329

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to time management and other duties required of classroom teachers in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.4011 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.4011. MAXIMUM WORK DAY. (a) A workday for a classroom teacher is 30 minutes longer than the school day established under Section 25.082.

(b) Except in emergencies, as defined by the commissioner, employees will be given at least twenty-four hours notice of any meeting that is not held during the regular work day, as defined in subsection (a), above.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a classroom teacher shall not be required to attend more than one meeting per week that is not held during the regular work day, as defined in subsection (a), above.

SECTION 2. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Section 21.404, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each classroom teacher is entitled to at least 450 minutes within each two-week period for instructional preparation, including parent-teacher conferences, evaluating students' work, and planning. A planning and preparation period under this section may not be less than 45 minutes within the instructional day.

1 During a planning and preparation period, a classroom teacher may
2 not be required to participate in any other activity.

3 (b) Each school district shall schedule at least one
4 two-hour period per month, within the regular workday, for teachers
5 to plan and collaborate by subject or grade level.

6 (c) To assist teachers with additional preparation and
7 planning time, schools and school districts shall establish
8 volunteer programs to do most routine duties, including but not
9 limited to clerical duties, before and after school routine duties,
10 such as monitoring students at the bus stop or in the cafeteria.

11 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 11, Section 11.164.
12 Restricting Written Reports, Education Code, is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 Sec. 11.164. Restricting Written Reports The board of
15 trustees of each school district shall adopt a resolution directing
16 the superintendent, or designee, and the district-level committee
17 to mutually develop and agree on a policy about the number and
18 length of written reports that classroom teachers in the district
19 are required to prepare. Recommendations for additional reports to
20 be completed by classroom teachers will be considered using the
21 same process. [~~On an annual basis, the board of trustees of each~~
22 ~~school district shall, after soliciting recommendations from each~~
23 ~~campus-level committee and the district-level committee, consider~~
24 ~~the number and length of written reports that employees of the~~
25 ~~district are required to prepare.]~~

26 SECTION 4. Subchapter D, Chapter 39, Section 39.075(a)
27 Special Accreditation Investigations, Education Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (a) The commissioner shall authorize special accreditation
3 investigations to be conducted:

4 (1) when excessive numbers of absences of students
5 eligible to be tested on state assessment instruments are
6 determined;

7 (2) when excessive numbers of allowable exemptions
8 from the required state assessment are determined;

9 (3) in response to complaints submitted to the agency
10 with respect to alleged violations of civil rights or other
11 requirements imposed on the state by federal law or court order;

12 (4) in response to established compliance reviews of
13 the district's financial accounting practices and state and federal
14 program requirements;

15 (5) when extraordinary numbers of student placements
16 in alternative education programs, other than placements under
17 Sections 37.006 and 37.007, are determined;

18 (6) in response to an allegation involving a conflict
19 between members of the board of trustees or between the board and
20 the district administration if it appears that the conflict
21 involves a violation of a role or duty of the board members or the
22 administration clearly defined by this code; ~~or~~

23 (7) in response to complaints submitted to the agency
24 with respect to alleged violations of excessive paperwork required
25 of classroom teachers; or

26 (8) as the commissioner otherwise determines
27 necessary.

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

3 Section 7.060. Paperwork required by the agency. The
4 commissioner shall annually review and reduce, to the greatest
5 extent possible, reports and paperwork required of school districts
6 by the agency. The commissioner shall develop a policy limiting
7 reports and paperwork that building principals and classroom
8 teachers can be required to complete.

9 SECTION 6. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004
10 school year.