

By: Janek, West

S.B. No. 186

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the computation of public school dropout and completion rates.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 39.051, Education Code, as amended by Chapters 8, 725, 834, and 1420, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(b) Performance on the indicators adopted under this section shall be compared to state-established standards. The degree of change from one school year to the next in performance on each indicator adopted under this section shall also be considered. The indicators must be based on information that is disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status and must include:

(1) the results of assessment instruments required under Sections 39.023(a), (c), and (l), aggregated by grade level and subject area;

(2) dropout rates, including dropout rates and district completion rates for grade levels 9 through 12, computed in accordance with standards and definitions adopted by the National Center for Education Statistics of the United States Department of Education;

(3) high school graduation rates, computed in

1 accordance with standards and definitions adopted in compliance  
2 with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Pub. L. No.  
3 107-110);

4 (4) student attendance rates;

5 (5) [~~(4)~~] the percentage of graduating students who  
6 attain scores on the secondary exit-level assessment instruments  
7 required under Subchapter B that are equivalent to a passing score  
8 on the test instrument required under Section 51.306;

9 (6) [~~(5)~~] the percentage of graduating students who  
10 meet the course requirements established for the recommended high  
11 school program by State Board of Education rule;

12 (7) [~~(6)~~] the results of the Scholastic Assessment  
13 Test (SAT), the American College Test (ACT), articulated  
14 postsecondary degree programs described by Section 61.852, and  
15 certified workforce training programs described by Chapter 311,  
16 Labor Code;

17 (8) [~~(7)~~] the percentage of students, aggregated by  
18 grade level, provided accelerated instruction under Section  
19 28.0211(c), the results of assessments administered under that  
20 section, the percentage of students promoted through the grade  
21 placement committee process under Section 28.0211, the subject of  
22 the assessment instrument on which each student failed to perform  
23 satisfactorily, and the performance of those students in the school  
24 year following that promotion on the assessment instruments  
25 required under Section 39.023;

26 (9) [~~(8)~~] for students who have failed to perform  
27 satisfactorily on an assessment instrument required under Section

1 39.023(a) or (c), the numerical progress of those students on  
2 subsequent assessment instruments required under those sections,  
3 aggregated by grade level and subject area;

4 (10) [~~(9)~~] ~~the percentage of students taking~~  
5 ~~end-of-course assessment instruments adopted under Section~~  
6 ~~39.023(d),~~

7 [~~(9)~~] the percentage of students exempted, by  
8 exemption category, from the assessment program generally  
9 applicable under this chapter [~~subchapter~~]; and

10 (11) the percentage of students of limited English  
11 proficiency exempted from the administration of an assessment  
12 instrument under Sections 39.027(a)(3) and (4).

13 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 39.051, Education Code,  
14 as amended by this Act, applies beginning with the 2005-2006 school  
15 year.

16 SECTION 3. The Texas Education Agency shall modify its data  
17 collection system to permit the application of the National Center  
18 for Education Statistics definition of a dropout to campuses not  
19 later than the 2005-2006 school year. In the interim, the Texas  
20 Education Agency shall assist districts in computing the required  
21 rates to the extent necessary to apply for dropout reduction grants  
22 funded under Section 1803 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001  
23 (20 U.S.C. Section 6553).

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