

By: Lucio, West

S.B. No. 251

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to a school district policy concerning the use of school counselors' work time.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.006, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) In accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, the board of trustees of each school district shall adopt a policy that establishes the percentage of total work time a counselor is expected to spend on the components of a guidance and counseling program as provided by Section 33.005. For purposes of this subsection, time spent in administering assessment instruments or providing other assistance in connection with assessment instruments, except time spent in interpreting data from assessment instruments, is not considered time spent in counseling or guidance. Each school in the district shall implement the policy. A copy of the policy shall be maintained in the office of each school in the district and made available on request during regular school hours to district employees, parents of district students, and the public.

SECTION 2. Section 39.074, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) Before an investigation, the commissioner shall request that the district scheduled for the investigation assess the

1 district's compliance with the policy adopted under Section
2 33.006(c) and provide a written copy of the assessment to the
3 investigators on or before the date specified by the commissioner.
4 As part of each investigation, the investigators shall interview a
5 percentage of district counselors determined by the commissioner to
6 assess the district's compliance with the policy adopted under
7 Section 33.006(c). The commissioner shall adopt rules for carrying
8 out this subsection.

9 SECTION 3. (a) Each school district shall implement a
10 policy adopted under Subsection (c), Section 33.006, Education
11 Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2004-2005 school
12 year.

13 (b) Subsection (g), Section 39.074, Education Code, as
14 added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2004-2005 school
15 year.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.