

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 589
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 19, 2003; February 24, 2003,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;
1-4 March 13, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 13, 2003,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 589 By: Zaffirini

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the purposes of the Texas School for the Blind and
1-11 Visually Impaired and the Texas School for the Deaf.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subsections (a) and (c), Section 30.021,
1-14 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-15 (a) The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is
1-16 a state agency established to serve as a special school in the
1-17 continuum of statewide ~~[alternative]~~ placements for students who
1-18 are 21 years of age or younger on September 1 of any school year and
1-19 who have a visual impairment and who may have one or more other
1-20 disabilities. The school shall provide comprehensive educational
1-21 services to ~~[is intended to serve]~~ students who require specialized
1-22 or intensive educational or related services related to the visual
1-23 impairment. The school is not intended to serve:

1-24 (1) students whose needs are appropriately addressed
1-25 in a home or hospital setting or in a residential treatment
1-26 facility; or

1-27 (2) students whose primary, ongoing needs are related
1-28 to a severe or profound emotional, behavioral, or cognitive
1-29 deficit.

1-30 (c) The school shall provide short-term ~~[conduct~~
1-31 ~~supplemental]~~ programs, such as summer programs ~~[and student~~
1-32 ~~exchange programs]~~, to:

1-33 (1) enable students who have a visual impairment to
1-34 develop skills so that they can benefit from educational programs
1-35 offered by the school districts in which the students reside; and

1-36 (2) prepare students who have a visual impairment for
1-37 independent functioning as adults ~~[and shall consider information~~
1-38 ~~from sources throughout the state regarding the nature of those~~
1-39 ~~programs and students to be served]~~.

1-40 SECTION 2. Section 30.051, Education Code, is amended to
1-41 read as follows:

1-42 Sec. 30.051. PURPOSE OF TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. (a) The
1-43 Texas School for the Deaf is a state agency established to serve as
1-44 a special school in the continuum of statewide placements for
1-45 students ~~[provide educational services to persons]~~ who are 21 years
1-46 of age or younger on September 1 of any school year and who are deaf
1-47 or hard of hearing and who may have one or more other disabilities.
1-48 The following provisions apply to the school ~~[shall provide]~~:

1-49 (1) the school shall provide comprehensive
1-50 educational services, on a day or residential basis;

1-51 (2) the school shall provide short-term programs,
1-52 including summer programs, ~~[services]~~ to:

1-53 (A) enable students who are deaf or hard of
1-54 hearing to develop skills so that they can benefit from educational
1-55 programs offered by the school districts in which the students
1-56 reside; and

1-57 (B) prepare students who are deaf or hard of
1-58 hearing for independent functioning as adults ~~[allow a student to~~
1-59 ~~better achieve educational results from services available in the~~
1-60 ~~community]~~; and

1-61 (3) the school is not intended to serve students whose
1-62 needs are appropriately addressed in a residential treatment
1-63 facility, a hospital, or in the student's home, for a student

2-1 needing homebound services [for any student who is deaf or hard of
 2-2 hearing and also has an additional disability and who requires a
 2-3 specialized support program but does not require a residential
 2-4 treatment facility].

2-5 (b) The school shall serve as a primary statewide resource
 2-6 center promoting excellence in education for students who are deaf
 2-7 or hard of hearing through research, training, and demonstration
 2-8 projects by providing services such as:

2-9 (1) developing and providing local, regional, and
 2-10 statewide training for parents of students who are deaf or hard of
 2-11 hearing and professionals who work with students who are deaf or
 2-12 hard of hearing;

2-13 (2) providing consultation and technical assistance
 2-14 to parents and professionals related to special education and
 2-15 related services for students;

2-16 (3) supporting the needs of students, parents, and
 2-17 families through videoconferencing and distance learning;

2-18 (4) developing and disseminating reference materials,
 2-19 including materials in the areas of curriculum, instructional
 2-20 methodology, and educational technology;

2-21 (5) providing information related to library
 2-22 resources, adapted materials, current research, and technology
 2-23 resources, and the teaching, assessment, and transition of students
 2-24 who are deaf or hard of hearing;

2-25 (6) operating programs for lending educational and
 2-26 technological materials to school districts, regional education
 2-27 service centers, and parents; and

2-28 (7) facilitating the preparation of teachers for
 2-29 students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

2-30 (c) ~~[The school shall work in partnership with state,~~
 2-31 ~~regional, and local agencies to provide new or improved programs or~~
 2-32 ~~methods to serve the previously unmet or future needs of persons~~
 2-33 ~~throughout the state who are deaf or hard of hearing.~~

2-34 ~~[(d)]~~ The school shall cooperate with public and private
 2-35 agencies and organizations serving students and other persons who
 2-36 are deaf or hard of hearing ~~[impaired]~~ in the planning,
 2-37 development, and implementation of effective educational and
 2-38 rehabilitative service delivery systems associated with educating
 2-39 students who are deaf or hard of hearing. To maximize and make
 2-40 efficient use of state facilities, funding, and resources, the
 2-41 services provided in this area may include conducting a cooperative
 2-42 program with other agencies to serve persons who have graduated
 2-43 from high school and who have identified needs related to
 2-44 vocational training, independent living skills, ~~[and]~~ social and
 2-45 leisure skills, compensatory skills, or remedial academic skills.

2-46 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004
 2-47 school year.

2-48 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-49 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-50 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-51 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-52 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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