

By: Barrientos

S.B. No. 1815

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to composite scoring of exit-level assessments for high school graduation.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The State Board of Education by rule shall determine curriculum requirements for the minimum, recommended, and advanced high school programs that are consistent with the required curriculum under Section 28.002. A person may receive a diploma if the person is eligible for a diploma under Section 28.0251. In other cases, a student may graduate and receive a diploma only if:

(1) the student successfully completes the curriculum requirements identified by the board and complies with subsection (f) or Section 39.025(a); or

(2) the student successfully completes an individualized education program developed under Section 29.005.

(b) A school district shall ensure that each student enrolls in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education under Subsection (a) for the recommended or advanced high school program unless the student, the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation to the student, and a school counselor or school administrator agree that the student should be permitted to take courses under the

1 minimum high school program.

2 (c) A student may graduate and receive a diploma only if:

3 (1) the student successfully completes the curriculum
4 requirements identified by the State Board of Education under
5 Subsection (a) and complies with Subsection (f) or Section
6 39.025(a); or

7 (2) the student successfully completes an
8 individualized education program developed under Section 29.005.

9 (d) A school district may issue a certificate of coursework
10 completion to a student who successfully completes the curriculum
11 requirements identified by the State Board of Education under
12 Subsection (a) but who fails to comply with Section 39.025(a). A
13 school district may allow a student who receives a certificate to
14 participate in a graduation ceremony with students receiving high
15 school diplomas.

16 (e) Each school district shall report the academic
17 achievement record of students who have completed a minimum,
18 recommended, or advanced high school program on transcript forms
19 adopted by the State Board of Education. The transcript forms
20 adopted by the board must be designed to clearly differentiate
21 between each of the high school programs and identify whether a
22 student passed all sections of the exit-level assessment, received
23 a diploma or a certificate of coursework completion.

24 (f) If fewer than 67% of all Texas 11th grade students
25 enrolled on the date of initial exit-level assessment
26 administration initially meet satisfactory performance
27 expectations on all exit-level assessments, students will have

1 satisfied requirements under Section 39.023 and Section 39.025(a)
2 if:

3 (1) after at least three attempts a student has not
4 passed all exit-level assessments as defined in Section 39.023(c);

5 (2) a student's score on each exit level assessment is
6 not lower than the passing standard on each exit assessment for the
7 graduating class of 2004; and

8 (3) a student's composite score on the exit level
9 assessments is equal to or exceeds the Transitional Statewide
10 Composite Exit Score.

11 (g) For the purposes of this subsection, the Transitional
12 Statewide Composite Exit Score is defined as no less than the sum or
13 average for satisfactory performance on each exit level assessment
14 as determined in Section 39.024(a).

15 (h) Subsections (f), (g) and this subsection are sunset when
16 more than 67% of all Texas 11th grade students enrolled on the date
17 of initial exit-level assessment administration meet satisfactory
18 performance expectations on all exit-level assessments.

19 SECTION 2. Section 39.025, Education Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (a) Except as otherwise provided by Section 28.025(f), a [A]
22 student may not receive a high school diploma until the student has
23 performed satisfactorily on the secondary exit-level assessment
24 instruments for English language arts, mathematics, social
25 studies, and science administered under Section 39.023(c). This
26 subsection does not require a student to demonstrate readiness to
27 enroll in an institution of higher education.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.