

AN ACT

relating to the P-16 Council and to the functioning of certain educational programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.076, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.076. P-16 COUNCIL [~~COOPERATION BETWEEN STATE AGENCIES OF EDUCATION~~]. (a) It is the policy of the State of Texas that the entire system of education supported with public funds be coordinated to provide the citizens with efficient, effective, and high quality educational services and activities. The P-16 Council [~~board and the State Board of Education~~], in conjunction with [~~such~~] other agencies as may be appropriate, shall ensure that long-range plans and educational programs for the state [~~established by the boards~~] complement the functioning of the entire system of public education, extending from early childhood education through postgraduate study. [~~In assuring that plans and programs are coordinated, the boards shall use the P-16 Council established under Section 61.077.~~]

(b) The P-16 Council is composed of the commissioner of education, the commissioner of higher education, the executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission, the executive director of the State Board for Educator Certification, and the commissioner of assistive and rehabilitative services. The commissioner of

1 higher education and the commissioner of education shall serve as
2 co-chairs of the council.

3 (c) The co-chairs may appoint three additional members who
4 are education professionals, agency representatives, business
5 representatives, or other members of the community. Members
6 appointed to the council under this subsection serve two-year terms
7 expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

8 (d) The council shall meet at least once each calendar
9 quarter and may hold other meetings as necessary at the call of the
10 co-chairs. Each member of the council or the member's designee
11 shall make a report of the council's activities at least twice
12 annually to the governing body of the member's agency, except that
13 the commissioner of education or that commissioner's designee shall
14 report to the State Board of Education and the commissioner of
15 assistive and rehabilitative services or that commissioner's
16 designee shall report to the executive commissioner of the Health
17 and Human Services Commission.

18 (e) The council shall coordinate plans and programs [~~of the~~
19 ~~two boards~~], including curricula, instructional programs,
20 research, and other functions as appropriate. This coordination
21 shall include the following areas:

- 22 (1) equal educational opportunity for all Texans;
- 23 (2) college recruitment, with special emphasis on the
24 recruitment of minority students;
- 25 (3) preparation of high school students for further
26 study at colleges and universities;
- 27 (4) reduction of the dropout rate and dropout

1 prevention;

2 (5) teacher education, recruitment, and retention;

3 (6) testing and assessment; and

4 (7) adult education programs.

5 (f) The council shall examine and make recommendations
6 regarding the alignment of secondary and postsecondary education
7 curricula and testing and assessment. This subsection does not
8 require the council to establish curriculum or testing or
9 assessment standards.

10 (g) The council shall advise the board and the State Board
11 of Education on the coordination of postsecondary career and
12 technology activities, career and technology teacher education
13 programs offered or proposed to be offered in the colleges and
14 universities of this state, and other relevant matters, including:

15 (1) coordinating postsecondary career and technology
16 education and the articulation between postsecondary career and
17 technology education and secondary career and technology
18 education;

19 (2) facilitating the transfer of responsibilities for
20 the administration of postsecondary career and technology
21 education from the State Board of Education to the board in
22 accordance with Section 111(a)(I) of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational
23 Education Act (Pub. L. No. 98-524);

24 (3) advising the State Board of Education, when it
25 acts as the State Board for Career and Technology Education, on the
26 following:

27 (A) the transfer of federal funds to the board

1 for allotment to eligible public postsecondary institutions of
2 higher education;

3 (B) the career and technology education funding
4 for projects and institutions as determined by the board when the
5 State Board for Career and Technology Education is required by
6 federal law to endorse those determinations;

7 (C) the development and updating of the state
8 plan for career and technology education and the evaluation of
9 programs, services, and activities of postsecondary career and
10 technology education and amendments to the state plan for career
11 and technology education as may relate to postsecondary education;

12 (D) other matters related to postsecondary
13 career and technology education; and

14 (E) the coordination of curricula, instructional
15 programs, research, and other functions as appropriate, including
16 school-to-work and school-to-college transition programs and
17 professional development activities; and

18 (4) advising the Texas Workforce Investment Council on
19 educational policy issues related to workforce preparation.

20 (h) On or before January 1, 2007, the P-16 Council shall:

21 (1) review existing school district programs that
22 provide high school students with the opportunity to enroll in
23 advanced academic courses offered through dual credit and
24 concurrent enrollment programs, including reviewing courses
25 currently approved by districts and offered by institutions of
26 higher education for dual and concurrent enrollment credit;

27 (2) review the high school curriculum required for the

1 recommended high school program under Section 28.025 and study the
2 feasibility of offering a revised curriculum that would provide
3 graduating high school students with at least 12 hours of advanced
4 academic courses or college-level coursework offered through dual
5 credit and concurrent enrollment programs provided under
6 agreements between high schools and institutions of higher
7 education; and

8 (3) prepare and deliver a report based on the review
9 and study to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
10 the house of representatives, and the presiding officer of the
11 standing committee of each house of the legislature with primary
12 jurisdiction over public education.

13 (i) Subsection (h) and this subsection expire January 2,
14 2007.

15 SECTION 2. (a) Section 61.077, Education Code, as amended
16 by Chapters 61, 818, and 820, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular
17 Session, 2003, is repealed.

18 (b) To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over
19 another Act of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005,
20 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
21 codes.

22 SECTION 3. Not later than September 1, 2006, the
23 Legislative Budget Board shall:

24 (1) study the resource needs of high-quality early
25 childhood care and education programs, including Head Start, Early
26 Head Start, prekindergarten, after-school programs, and licensed
27 child-care programs; and

1 (2) report the board's findings and recommendations to
2 the P-16 Council, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
3 speaker of the house of representatives, and the 79th Legislature
4 regarding:

5 (A) the results of the study described by
6 Subdivision (1);

7 (B) recommended options to secure additional
8 funding for the programs described by Subdivision (1); and

9 (C) a recommended plan to implement, in phases,
10 full-day prekindergarten programs for at-risk children and to
11 expand the eligibility criteria for those programs.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2808 was passed by the House on April 28, 2005, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2808 on May 27, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2808 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor