

By: Uresti

H.B. No. 2859

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student codes of conduct and school discipline.

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

SECTION 1. Section 37.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b) and (e) and amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b) The commissioner by rule shall adopt standards for student conduct and enforcement of student codes of conduct, including standards related to due process. A school district's student code of conduct and enforcement of the code of conduct must conform to standards adopted under this subsection.

(d) Each school year, a school district shall:

(1) provide parents notice of and information regarding the student code of conduct;

(2) require parents and students to review the code of conduct during a meeting conducted by a school representative; and

(3) require that parents and students sign an agreement of understanding after the code of conduct and its consequences have been reviewed in a meeting under Subdivision (2).

(e) Each campus in a school district shall review the student code of conduct with campus administrators and teachers at a meeting held before the first day of instruction each school year. The review may not be considered required staff development for purposes of Section 21.451.

1 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 37, Education Code, is  
2 amended by adding Section 37.0051 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 37.0051. CAMPUS COMMUNITY SERVICE. (a) Before  
4 suspending a student or assigning a student to detention for  
5 engaging in disruptive behavior, other than behavior described by  
6 Section 37.006 or 37.007, the principal or other appropriate  
7 administrator shall consider assigning the student to campus  
8 community service as provided by this section.

9 (b) A student assigned to campus community service must:

10 (1) perform the service under the supervision of a  
11 teacher other than the teacher of a class in which the student is  
12 enrolled, during the teacher's conference period or other time  
13 period convenient for the teacher; and

14 (2) perform campus community service duties as  
15 required by the teacher and approved by the principal or other  
16 appropriate administrator.

17 (c) If a student fails to complete a campus community  
18 service assignment, the campus may suspend the student, require a  
19 meeting between the student and a campus administrator, or  
20 otherwise appropriately discipline the student.

21 (d) The commissioner by rule may determine activities and  
22 tasks that are not appropriate for campus community service  
23 assignments.

24 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2005-2006  
25 school year.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.