

By: West, Royce

S.B. No. 936

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to practices of school districts that concern the admission process to institutions of higher education.

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

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

(e) Each school district shall report the academic achievement record of a student in electronic and paper formats [~~students who have completed a minimum, recommended, or advanced high school program~~] on a uniform transcript form [~~forms~~] adopted by the State Board of Education. The transcript form [~~forms~~] adopted by the board must be designed to:

(1) clearly differentiate between [~~each of~~] the minimum, recommended, and advanced high school programs and identify the program completed by a student;

(2) provide information in a standard format regarding:

(A) any honors, advanced placement, or international baccalaureate courses available at a student's high school and which, if any, of those courses the student completed;
and

(B) any college-level courses available to a student under a dual credit program provided under an agreement between the student's high school and an institution of higher

1 education and which, if any, of those courses the student
2 completed; and

3 (3) identify whether a student received a diploma or a
4 certificate of coursework completion.

5 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 28.0252 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 28.0252. COMPUTATION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT
8 AVERAGE. (a) The commissioner shall develop a standard method of
9 computing a student's high school grade point average that provides
10 for additional weight to be given to each honors course, advanced
11 placement course, international baccalaureate course, or dual
12 credit course described by Section 28.025(e)(2)(B) completed by a
13 student.

14 (b) A school district may elect to use the standard method
15 developed under this section.

16 (c) A school district may elect to use the standard method
17 developed under this section to compute the grade point averages
18 only for students entering grade nine during or after the 2006-2007
19 school year. This subsection expires September 1, 2009.

20 SECTION 3. (a) The Texas Education Agency shall conduct a
21 study to determine the feasibility of requiring school districts to
22 provide high school seniors with an elective class period during
23 the school day to enable the student to:

- 24 (1) research colleges and major areas of study;
25 (2) work with guidance counselors in preparing college
26 applications, admission essays, and financial aid applications;
27 and

1 (3) search for scholarships and financial aid options.

2 (b) In conducting the study required by this section, the
3 Texas Education Agency shall survey the current practices of school
4 districts in this state and determine the best practices relating
5 to college application assistance for high school seniors.

6 (c) Not later than December 1, 2006, the Texas Education
7 Agency shall submit a report on the results of the study required by
8 this section to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the
9 legislature.

10 SECTION 4. The State Board of Education shall adopt the
11 uniform transcript form required by Section 28.025(e), Education
12 Code, as amended by this Act, as soon as practicable after the
13 effective date of this Act, and not later than January 1, 2006. A
14 school district shall use the form beginning with the 2006-2007
15 school year.

16 SECTION 5. 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, 2005.