

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1278

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a college entrance examination preparation pilot program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

PREPARATION PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 29.401. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "College entrance examination" means an assessment instrument, such as the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT), used by colleges and universities in determining student admissions.

(2) "Preparation course" means a college entrance examination preparation course.

(3) "Program" means the college entrance examination preparation pilot program.

Sec. 29.402. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM; GUIDELINES. (a) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the agency shall establish a college entrance examination preparation pilot program for the purpose of enabling a participating campus to offer a college entrance examination preparation course to participating students.

(b) The agency shall adopt clear guidelines for participating campuses to follow in implementing the program.

1 Sec. 29.403. APPROVED VENDORS. (a) The agency shall
2 compile a list of vendors approved by the agency to provide
3 preparation course instruction for participating campuses.

4 (b) The agency may approve a vendor for inclusion on the
5 list only if the vendor:

6 (1) has a proven record of successfully increasing
7 students' scores on college entrance examinations;

8 (2) is financially sound; and

9 (3) uses for a participating campus's preparation
10 course a set of comprehensive materials and instructors with the
11 experience and skills necessary for successfully teaching a
12 preparation course.

13 Sec. 29.404. CAMPUS ELIGIBILITY. A campus is eligible to
14 participate in the program only if:

15 (1) at least 40 percent of the students enrolled at the
16 campus are educationally disadvantaged; or

17 (2) the campus meets the criteria specified by Section
18 1114(a)(1), No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section
19 6314).

20 Sec. 29.405. APPLICATION PROCESS. (a) A campus, or a
21 school district on behalf of one or more district campuses, may
22 apply to the agency to participate in the program. The application
23 submitted by the campus or district must include a detailed
24 proposal that:

25 (1) describes the manner in which the campus proposes
26 to:

27 (A) recruit students to and achieve and maintain

1 strong student attendance and participation in the program; and

2 (B) assist participating students in completing
3 the preparation course and taking a college entrance examination;

4 (2) describes how the campus proposes to schedule a
5 preparation course so that the course does not interfere with
6 participating students' regular curriculum requirements or
7 extracurricular activities; and

8 (3) identifies a campus administrator or faculty
9 member who will serve as the campus program coordinator and who will
10 be:

11 (A) responsible for the logistical and support
12 requirements of the program; and

13 (B) accountable for the success of the program.

14 (b) On the basis of applications submitted under this
15 section, the agency shall select to participate in the program
16 campuses that are eligible to participate under Section 29.404.

17 Sec. 29.406. STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM. (a) A
18 participating campus shall establish a process for selecting
19 students to participate in the program.

20 (b) A student is eligible to participate in the program if
21 the student:

22 (1) is enrolled in the 11th grade at a participating
23 campus;

24 (2) is educationally disadvantaged or is from a family
25 considered to be low-income for purposes of Section 1114(a)(1), No
26 Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6314); and

27 (3) performed satisfactorily on the 10th grade

1 mathematics and English language arts assessment instruments
2 administered under Section 39.023(a).

3 Sec. 29.407. FUNDING; CAMPUS IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM.

4 (a) A participating campus is entitled to receive a grant from the
5 agency in an amount, determined by the agency, sufficient to
6 implement the program.

7 (b) A participating campus shall select a vendor from the
8 agency's list of approved vendors under Section 29.403 to offer a
9 college entrance examination preparation course at the campus.

10 (c) A participating campus must provide for the logistical
11 necessities of the preparation course, such as the course's
12 location and transportation to the course, and supplies, such as
13 pencils and calculators.

14 (d) A participating campus's preparation course must
15 provide for:

16 (1) at least 25 hours of instruction per week;

17 (2) detailed student materials aligned with the
18 instruction;

19 (3) mathematics and verbal content and skill
20 remediation;

21 (4) at least three full-length practice examinations,
22 with prompt scoring, individualized review of results, and, if
23 appropriate, graded essay responses;

24 (5) incentives for attendance;

25 (6) access to online instruction for students who are
26 unable to attend a preparation course in person;

27 (7) Spanish language course guides;

1 (8) information sessions for family members; and
2 (9) additional resources for participating students,
3 such as study guides and additional practice items.

4 Sec. 29.408. EVALUATION; REPORT. (a) Each participating
5 campus shall, with the assistance of the vendor serving the campus,
6 report preparation course performance data to the agency. The
7 performance data must include aggregated student scores and
8 progress reports, including the college entrance examination
9 scores of participating students.

10 (b) The agency shall conduct an evaluation of the program
11 that is based on strong methodological practices. Each
12 participating campus shall cooperate with the agency to ensure an
13 effective evaluation.

14 (c) The agency shall report the results of the evaluation to
15 the legislature not later than the first day of each regular
16 legislative session.

17 Sec. 29.409. RULES. The commissioner shall adopt rules
18 necessary to administer this section.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act, the commissioner of education shall adopt rules for
21 implementing the college entrance examination preparation pilot
22 program as required by Subchapter K, Chapter 29, Education Code, as
23 added by this Act. The commissioner of education shall make the
24 college entrance examination preparation pilot program available
25 for school campus participation beginning with the 2005-2006 school
26 year.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

S.B. No. 1278

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.