

By: Eissler, Bonnen, Madden, King of Taylor,
Giddings, et al.

H.B. No. 2217

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to grants and programs for dropout prevention, high school success, and college and workforce readiness in public schools and student performance at certain community colleges.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 7.009(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) In coordination with the Legislative Budget Board, the agency shall establish an online clearinghouse of information relating to best practices of campuses and school districts regarding instruction, dropout prevention, public school finance, resource allocation, and business practices. To the extent practicable, the agency shall ensure that information provided through the online clearinghouse is specific, actionable information relating to the best practices of high-performing and highly efficient campuses and school districts rather than general guidelines relating to campus and school district operation. The information must be accessible by campuses, school districts, and interested members of the public.

(b) The agency shall solicit and collect from the Legislative Budget Board, centers for education research established under Section 1.005, and exemplary or recognized school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools, as rated under Section 39.072, examples of best practices relating to

1 instruction, dropout prevention, public school finance, resource
2 allocation, and business practices, including best practices
3 relating to curriculum, scope and sequence, compensation and
4 incentive systems, bilingual education and special language
5 programs, compensatory education programs, and the effective use of
6 instructional technology, including online courses.

7 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 7, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 7.031 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 7.031. STUDY OF BEST PRACTICES FOR DROPOUT PREVENTION.

10 (a) The commissioner shall contract with one or more centers for
11 education research under Section 1.005 to:

12 (1) study the best practices of campuses and school
13 districts in this state and other states regarding dropout
14 prevention programs; and

15 (2) prepare a report regarding the findings of the
16 study.

17 (b) The report under Subsection (a) must:

18 (1) identify any high-performing and highly efficient
19 dropout prevention programs;

20 (2) identify the dropout prevention programs under
21 Subdivision (1) that have the most potential for success in this
22 state; and

23 (3) recommend legislation or other actions necessary
24 to implement a dropout prevention program identified under
25 Subdivision (2).

26 (c) Not later than December 1, 2008, the commissioner shall
27 deliver the report produced under Subsection (a) to the governor,

1 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
2 representatives, and the presiding officers of the standing
3 committees of each house of the legislature with primary
4 jurisdiction over public education.

5 (d) This section expires January 1, 2009.

6 SECTION 3. Section 7.056(e), Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (f), a school campus or
9 district may not receive an exemption or waiver under this section
10 from:

11 (1) a prohibition on conduct that constitutes a
12 criminal offense;

13 (2) a requirement imposed by federal law or rule,
14 including a requirement for special education or bilingual
15 education programs; or

16 (3) a requirement, restriction, or prohibition
17 relating to:

18 (A) essential knowledge or skills under Section
19 28.002 or minimum graduation requirements under Section 28.025;

20 (B) public school accountability as provided by
21 Subchapters B, C, D, and G, Chapter 39;

22 (C) extracurricular activities under Section
23 33.081 or participation in a University Interscholastic League
24 area, regional, or state competition under Section 33.0812;

25 (D) health and safety under Chapter 38;

26 (E) purchasing under Subchapter B, Chapter 44;

27 (F) elementary school class size limits, except

1 as provided by Section 25.112;

2 (G) removal of a disruptive student from the
3 classroom under Subchapter A, Chapter 37;

4 (H) at-risk programs under Subchapter C, Chapter
5 29;

6 (I) prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E,
7 Chapter 29;

8 (J) educator rights and benefits under
9 Subchapters A, C, D, E, F, G, and I, Chapter 21, or under Subchapter
10 A, Chapter 22;

11 (K) special education programs under Subchapter
12 A, Chapter 29;

13 (L) bilingual education programs under
14 Subchapter B, Chapter 29; ~~or~~

15 (M) the requirements for the first day of
16 instruction under Section 25.0811; or

17 (N) the prohibition on assignment of a student to
18 an inexperienced and uncertified teacher under Section 28.0216,
19 except as otherwise authorized under that section.

20 SECTION 4. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
21 amended by adding Section 21.419 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 21.419. SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR TEACHERS IN HIGH-NEED
23 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS; PILOT PROJECT. (a) The commissioner
24 shall establish a pilot project in school districts selected by the
25 commissioner to pay salary supplements to teachers who commit to
26 teach for at least three years in one of the districts at any high
27 school campus considered academically unacceptable under Section

1 39.132.

2 (b) In selecting school districts under Subsection (a), the
3 commissioner shall select districts:

4 (1) in which at least 70 percent of the number of
5 students enrolled in the district are educationally disadvantaged;

6 (2) that have a substantial number of high school
7 campuses considered academically unacceptable under Section
8 39.132; and

9 (3) that have high teacher turnover rates.

10 (c) From amounts appropriated to the agency, the
11 commissioner shall award grants to school districts that
12 participate in the program. A grant under this section must be in
13 an amount sufficient to pay the costs to the district of
14 participating in the program, as determined by the commissioner. A
15 determination of the commissioner is final and may not be appealed.

16 (d) A school district may use a grant awarded under
17 Subsection (c) only to pay a salary supplement to a teacher who
18 commits to teach for three years beginning with the 2007-2008
19 school year at any high school campus in the district considered
20 academically unacceptable under Section 39.132. The district shall
21 pay one-third of the salary supplement as a signing bonus and pay
22 the remaining two-thirds of the salary supplement only at the end of
23 the teacher's three-year commitment to the district. A teacher who
24 does not fulfill the three-year commitment is not entitled to any
25 portion of the remaining two-thirds of the salary supplement.

26 (e) The provisions of Chapter 21 regarding resignation
27 apply in the same manner to a teacher employed under a contract who

1 commits to teach in a district under this section as to a teacher
2 employed under a contract to teach in any district.

3 (f) A grant a school district receives under this section is
4 in addition to any funding the district receives under Chapter 42.
5 The commissioner shall distribute funds under this section with the
6 Foundation School Program payment to which the district is entitled
7 as soon as practicable after the end of the school year as
8 determined by the commissioner. A district to which Chapter 41
9 applies is entitled to a grant under this section. The commissioner
10 shall determine the timing of the distribution of a grant to a
11 district that does not receive Foundation School Program payments.
12 An open-enrollment charter school is not eligible for a grant under
13 this section.

14 (g) This section does not create a property right to a grant
15 or salary supplement. A school district is entitled to a grant to
16 carry out the purposes of this section only to the extent the
17 commissioner makes the grant in accordance with this section and
18 only to the extent sufficient state funds are appropriated for
19 those purposes. If state funds are appropriated but are
20 insufficient to fully fund a grant, the commissioner shall reduce
21 the grant paid to each district and the district shall reduce the
22 salary supplement the district pays to each teacher under this
23 section proportionately so that each selected teacher receives the
24 same amount of money.

25 (h) Each district shall, in the manner and at the time
26 prescribed by the commissioner, provide to the commissioner proof
27 acceptable to the commissioner of the appropriate certification of

1 a teacher to whom the district is paying a salary supplement under
2 this section.

3 (i) The commissioner may audit the expenditure of money
4 appropriated for purposes of this section. A district's use of the
5 money appropriated for purposes of this section shall be verified
6 as part of the district audit under Section 44.008.

7 (j) A salary supplement a teacher receives under this
8 section is not considered in determining whether the district is
9 paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402.

10 (k) The commissioner may adopt any rules necessary to
11 implement this section.

12 (l) The agency shall report to the legislature describing
13 the agency's activities under the pilot project, the effect of the
14 project on the teacher turnover rate and the academic performance
15 level for each school district participating in the project, and
16 the recommendations arising from the project. The agency shall
17 submit an interim report under this subsection not later than
18 January 1, 2009, and a final report not later than January 1, 2011.

19 (m) This section expires January 1, 2011.

20 SECTION 5. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
21 amended by adding Section 21.4511 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 21.4511. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR
23 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS. (a) From funds appropriated for that
24 purpose, the High School Completion and Success Initiative
25 Committee established under Subchapter L, Chapter 39, may develop
26 and recommend the award of grants as provided by Section 39.360 to
27 school districts, regional education service centers, and

1 institutions of higher education for the establishment of technical
2 assistance and professional development activities in the staff
3 development training of public school teachers and administrators.

4 (b) The training under this section shall include training
5 relating to implementing curriculum and instruction that is aligned
6 with the foundation curriculum described by Section 28.002(a)(1)
7 and standards and expectations for college readiness, as determined
8 by State Board of Education rule under Section 28.008(d).

9 (c) The High School Completion and Success Initiative
10 Committee may give preference to a school district, regional
11 education service center, or institution of higher education
12 conducting professional development activities under this section
13 that applies for a grant in partnership with a state or national
14 organization that has demonstrated success in the development and
15 implementation of high school reform strategies.

16 SECTION 6. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
17 amended by adding Section 21.4541 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 21.4541. MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES PILOT
19 PROGRAM. (a) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the
20 commissioner by rule shall establish a pilot program under which
21 participating school districts and campuses receive grants to
22 provide assistance in developing the content knowledge and
23 instructional expertise of teachers who instruct students in
24 mathematics at the middle school, junior high school, or high
25 school level.

26 (b) A school district or campus is eligible to participate
27 in the pilot program under this section if the district or campus

1 meets the eligibility criteria established as provided by Section
2 39.360.

3 (c) A grant awarded under this section may be used to
4 support intensive instructional coaching and professional
5 development from a service provider approved by the commissioner.
6 Approved service providers may include:

7 (1) academies and training centers established in
8 conjunction with a Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and
9 Mathematics (T-STEM) center;

10 (2) regional education service centers;

11 (3) institutions of higher education; and

12 (4) private organizations with significant experience
13 in providing mathematics instruction, as determined by the
14 commissioner.

15 (d) An instructional coaching or professional development
16 program supported by a grant under this section must demonstrate
17 significant past effectiveness in improving mathematics
18 instruction in middle schools, junior high schools, and high
19 schools serving a significant number of students identified as
20 students at risk of dropping out of school, as described by Section
21 29.081(d). An instructional coaching or professional development
22 program may include:

23 (1) providing classes to teachers on effective
24 mathematics instruction;

25 (2) providing tutoring or mentoring to teachers
26 regarding effective mathematics instruction;

27 (3) providing incentives to teachers to participate in

1 the program; or

2 (4) engaging in any other activities determined by the
3 commissioner as likely to improve the instructional skills of
4 teachers providing mathematics instruction.

5 (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
6 implement the pilot program.

7 SECTION 7. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 21.462 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 21.462. MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY TEACHER
10 PREPARATION ACADEMIES. (a) From funds appropriated for that
11 purpose, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
12 establish academies at institutions of higher education to improve
13 the instructional skills of teachers certified under Subchapter B
14 and train students enrolled in a teacher preparation program to
15 perform at the highest levels in mathematics, science, and
16 technology. The coordinating board may adopt rules as necessary to
17 administer this section.

18 (b) Before an institution of higher education establishes
19 an academy under this section, the institution must apply through a
20 competitive process, as determined by the Texas Higher Education
21 Coordinating Board, and meet any requirements established by the
22 coordinating board for designation as an academy under this section
23 and continued funding. The institution of higher education must
24 have a teacher preparation program approved by the State Board for
25 Educator Certification or be affiliated with an approved program in
26 a manner that allows participants to meet the certification
27 requirements under Sections 21.0482, 21.0483, and 21.0484.

1 (c) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the
2 State Board for Educator Certification shall adopt rules to
3 coordinate the requirements of each board to facilitate the ability
4 of a graduate of an academy established under this section to obtain
5 a master teacher certificate under Section 21.0482, 21.0483, or
6 21.0484.

7 (d) A participant in an academy program must be:

8 (1) an experienced teacher who:

9 (A) is recommended by a school district; and

10 (B) has at least five years experience teaching
11 mathematics, science, or technology in assignments for which the
12 teacher met all certification requirements; or

13 (2) a teacher preparation program candidate who has or
14 will graduate with a degree in mathematics, science, or technology.

15 (e) An academy program shall:

16 (1) offer a masters-level degree as part of the
17 program on a schedule that allows a teacher participant to complete
18 the program and degree while employed as a teacher;

19 (2) coordinate with the mathematics, science, and
20 technology departments of the institution of higher education
21 operating the program to facilitate the ability of:

22 (A) academy participants to take advanced
23 courses and qualify for degrees; and

24 (B) teacher preparation program candidates
25 pursuing mathematics, science, or technology degrees to
26 participate in academy programs;

27 (3) integrate advanced subject-matter coursework with

1 instructional methodology and curriculum delivery; and

2 (4) focus on strengthening instructional skills.

3 (f) An academy program may:

4 (1) provide financial assistance for the purpose of
5 allowing participants to complete the program and obtain a master
6 teacher certificate under Section 21.0482, 21.0483, or 21.0484;

7 (2) include programs in leadership skills to develop
8 training, mentoring, and coaching skills;

9 (3) deliver coursework electronically for some or all
10 of the program; and

11 (4) provide for ongoing professional development and
12 coordination with specific public school instructional programs.

13 (g) The commissioner of education shall, to the extent funds
14 are appropriated for that purpose:

15 (1) develop training materials under Sections 21.454
16 and 21.456 consistent with the academy training and master
17 mathematics, science, and technology certification;

18 (2) coordinate the activities of professional
19 development institutes in mathematics under Section 21.455 with
20 activities of academies established under this section; and

21 (3) target grants under Sections 21.411, 21.412, and
22 21.413 to support experienced teachers participating in an academy
23 program.

24 SECTION 8. Section 25.001, Education Code, is amended by
25 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) A person who, on the first day of September of any school

1 year, is at least five years of age and under 21 years of age, or is
2 at least 21 years of age and under 26 years of age and is admitted by
3 a school district to complete the requirements for a high school
4 diploma, [~~on the first day of September of any school year~~] is
5 entitled to the benefits of the available school fund for that year.
6 Any other person enrolled in a prekindergarten class under Section
7 29.153 is entitled to the benefits of the available school fund.

8 (b) The board of trustees of a school district or its
9 designee shall admit into the public schools of the district free of
10 tuition a person who is over five and younger than 21 years of age on
11 the first day of September of the school year in which admission is
12 sought, and may admit a person who is at least 21 years of age and
13 under 26 years of age for the purpose of completing the requirements
14 for a high school diploma, if:

15 (1) the person and either parent of the person reside
16 in the school district;

17 (2) the person does not reside in the school district
18 but a parent of the person resides in the school district and that
19 parent is a joint managing conservator or the sole managing
20 conservator or possessory conservator of the person;

21 (3) the person and the person's guardian or other
22 person having lawful control of the person under a court order
23 reside within the school district;

24 (4) the person has established a separate residence
25 under Subsection (d);

26 (5) the person is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C.
27 Section 11302, regardless of the residence of the person, of either

1 parent of the person, or of the person's guardian or other person
2 having lawful control of the person;

3 (6) the person is a foreign exchange student placed
4 with a host family that resides in the school district by a
5 nationally recognized foreign exchange program, unless the school
6 district has applied for and been granted a waiver by the
7 commissioner under Subsection (e);

8 (7) the person resides at a residential facility
9 located in the district;

10 (8) the person resides in the school district and is 18
11 years of age or older or the person's disabilities of minority have
12 been removed; or

13 (9) the person does not reside in the school district
14 but the grandparent of the person:

15 (A) resides in the school district; and

16 (B) provides a substantial amount of
17 after-school care for the person as determined by the board.

18 (b-1) A person who is 21 years of age or older and is
19 admitted by a school district for the purpose stated in Subsection
20 (b) is not eligible for placement in a disciplinary alternative
21 education program or a juvenile justice alternative education
22 program if the person engages in conduct that would require or
23 authorize such placement for a student under the age of 21. If the
24 student engages in conduct that would otherwise require such
25 placement, the district shall revoke admission of the student into
26 the public schools of the district.

27 SECTION 9. Section 25.085(d), Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (d) Unless specifically exempted by Section 25.086, a
3 student enrolled in a school district must attend:

4 (1) an extended-year program for which the student is
5 eligible that is provided by the district for students identified
6 as likely not to be promoted to the next grade level or tutorial
7 classes required by the district under Section 29.084;

8 (2) an accelerated reading instruction program to
9 which the student is assigned under Section 28.006(g);

10 (3) an accelerated instruction program to which the
11 student is assigned under Section 28.0211;

12 (4) a basic skills program to which the student is
13 assigned under Section 29.086; ~~[or]~~

14 (5) a summer program provided under Section 37.008(1)
15 or Section 37.021; or

16 (6) an intensive preparation academy to which the
17 student is assigned under Section 39.0252.

18 SECTION 10. Section 25.092, Education Code, is amended by
19 adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as
20 follows:

21 (a-1) A student who is in attendance for at least 75 percent
22 but less than 90 percent of the days a class is offered may be given
23 credit for the class if the student completes a plan approved by the
24 school's principal that provides for the student to meet the
25 instructional requirements of the class. A student under the
26 jurisdiction of a court in a criminal or juvenile justice
27 proceeding may not receive credit under this subsection without the

1 consent of the judge presiding over the student's case.

2 (b) The board of trustees of each school district shall
3 appoint one or more attendance committees to hear petitions for
4 class credit by students who are in attendance fewer than the number
5 of days required under Subsection (a) and have not earned class
6 credit under Subsection (a-1). Classroom teachers shall comprise a
7 majority of the membership of the committee. A committee may give
8 class credit to a student because of extenuating circumstances.
9 Each board of trustees shall establish guidelines to determine what
10 constitutes extenuating circumstances and shall adopt policies
11 establishing alternative ways for students to make up work or
12 regain credit lost because of absences. The alternative ways must
13 include at least one option that does not require a student to pay a
14 fee authorized under Section 11.158(a)(15). A certified public
15 school employee may not be assigned additional instructional duties
16 as a result of this section outside of the regular workday unless
17 the employee is compensated for the duties at a reasonable rate of
18 pay.

19 SECTION 11. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
20 amended by adding Section 28.0022 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 28.0022. REVIEW PANEL FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL
22 EDUCATION CURRICULUM. (a) Not later than November 1, 2007, the
23 agency shall establish a panel under this section to:

24 (1) review and recommend revisions to the career and
25 technical education curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(2)(F); and

26 (2) review and recommend revisions for the program in
27 which high schools and articulated postsecondary institutions

1 allow high school students to take advanced technical credit
2 courses.

3 (b) The panel established under this section shall consist
4 of:

5 (1) individuals who have expertise developing or
6 administering career and technical education programs; and

7 (2) employers who hire students who have obtained
8 certification or credentials under a career and technical education
9 program.

10 (c) A member of the panel serves on a voluntary basis
11 without compensation.

12 (d) Not later than November 1, 2008, the panel shall:

13 (1) complete the review as required by this section
14 of:

15 (A) the career and technical education
16 curriculum; and

17 (B) the program under which high schools and
18 articulated postsecondary institutions allow high school students
19 to take advanced technical credit courses; and

20 (2) make recommendations to the State Board of
21 Education as necessary to:

22 (A) increase the academic rigor of the career and
23 technical education curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(2)(F); and

24 (B) improve and increase participation in the
25 program under which high schools and articulated postsecondary
26 institutions allow high school students to take advanced technical
27 credit courses.

1 (e) Not later than September 1, 2009, the State Board of
2 Education by rule shall revise the essential knowledge and skills
3 of the career and technical education curriculum as provided by
4 Section 28.002(c) based on the recommendations of the panel under
5 Subsection (d). The State Board of Education shall require school
6 districts to provide instruction in the career and technical
7 education curriculum, as revised under this subsection, beginning
8 with the 2010-2011 school year.

9 (f) This section expires September 1, 2014.

10 SECTION 12. Section 28.008, Education Code, is amended by
11 adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

12 (d-1) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, the State
13 Board of Education shall incorporate college readiness standards
14 and expectations into the essential knowledge and skills of the
15 foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1) for courses in
16 which students in grades nine through 12 generally enroll, as
17 determined by board rule. This subsection expires December 1,
18 2012.

19 SECTION 13. Section 28.009, Education Code, is amended by
20 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read
21 as follows:

22 (a) Each school district shall implement a program under
23 which students may earn the equivalent of at least 12 semester
24 credit hours of college credit in high school. On request, a public
25 institution of higher education in this state shall assist a school
26 district in developing and implementing the program. The college
27 credit may be earned through:

1 (1) international baccalaureate, advanced placement,
2 or dual credit courses;

3 (2) articulated postsecondary courses provided for
4 local credit or articulated postsecondary advanced technical
5 credit courses provided for state credit; or

6 (3) any combination of the courses described by
7 Subdivisions (1) and (2).

8 (c) Each school district shall annually report to the
9 agency:

10 (1) the number of district students, including career
11 and technical students, who have participated in the program and
12 earned college credit; and

13 (2) the cumulative number of courses in which
14 participating district students have enrolled and college credit
15 hours the students have earned.

16 (d) In this section:

17 (1) "Career and technical student" means:

18 (A) a secondary education student who has entered
19 the first course in a sequence of two or more technical courses for
20 three or more credits in a career and technical education program;
21 or

22 (B) a student who:

23 (i) is enrolled in an academic or workforce
24 course that is part of a sequence of courses leading to an
25 industry-recognized credential, certificate, or degree; and

26 (ii) has declared that sequence of courses
27 as the student's major course of study.

1 (2) "Sequence of courses" means career and technical
2 education courses approved by the State Board of Education,
3 innovative courses approved by the State Board of Education that
4 are provided for local credit, or a tech-prep program of study under
5 Section 61.852.

6 SECTION 14. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 28.014 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 28.014. COLLEGE PREPARATORY MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE
9 COURSES. (a) The commissioner of education and the commissioner of
10 higher education shall develop and recommend to the State Board of
11 Education for adoption under Section 28.002 the essential knowledge
12 and skills of a course in college preparatory mathematics and a
13 course in college preparatory science for use in public high
14 schools. The courses must be designed:

15 (1) for students at the 12th grade level who do not
16 meet college readiness standards on a secondary exit-level
17 assessment instrument required under Section 39.023(c); and

18 (2) to prepare students for success in entry-level
19 college courses.

20 (b) A student who successfully completes a course developed
21 under this section may use the credit earned in the course toward
22 satisfying the applicable mathematics or science curriculum
23 requirement for the recommended or advanced high school program
24 under Section 28.025.

25 (c) The agency, in consultation with the Texas Higher
26 Education Coordinating Board, shall adopt an end-of-course
27 assessment instrument for each course developed under this section

1 to ensure the rigor of the course. A school district shall, in
2 accordance with State Board of Education rules, administer the
3 end-of-course assessment instrument to a student enrolled in a
4 course developed under this section. Each school district shall
5 adopt a policy that requires a student's performance on the
6 end-of-course assessment instrument to account for 15 percent of
7 the student's final grade for the course. A student's performance
8 on an end-of-course assessment instrument administered under this
9 subsection is not subject to the graduation requirements
10 established under Section 39.025.

11 (d) The agency, in coordination with the Texas Higher
12 Education Coordinating Board, shall adopt a series of optional
13 questions to be included in an end-of-course assessment instrument
14 administered under Subsection (c) to be used for purposes of
15 Section 51.3062. The optional questions must be developed in a
16 manner consistent with any college readiness standards adopted
17 under Sections 39.113 and 51.3062. A student's performance on an
18 optional question adopted under this subsection may not be used to
19 determine the student's performance on an end-of-course assessment
20 instrument.

21 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt instructional
22 materials for a course developed under this section in accordance
23 with Chapter 31. The instructional materials must include
24 technology resources that enhance the effectiveness of the course
25 and draw on established best practices.

26 (f) To the extent applicable, the commissioner shall draw
27 from curricula and instructional materials developed under

1 Sections 28.008 and 61.0763 in developing a course and related
2 instructional materials under this section. Not later than October
3 1, 2008, the State Board of Education shall adopt essential
4 knowledge and skills for each course developed under this section.
5 The State Board of Education shall make each course developed under
6 this section and the related instructional materials available to
7 school districts beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. As
8 required by Subsection (c), a school district shall adopt a policy
9 requiring a student's performance on an end-of-course assessment
10 instrument administered under that subsection to account for 15
11 percent of the student's grade for a course developed under this
12 section beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. This subsection
13 expires September 1, 2012.

14 SECTION 15. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 28.015 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 28.015. APPLIED MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE COURSES. (a)
17 The commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher
18 education shall establish vertical teams composed of public school
19 educators, institution of higher education faculty, community or
20 technical college faculty, workforce representatives, and any
21 other person selected by the commissioners to serve on the vertical
22 teams.

23 (b) The vertical teams shall develop and recommend to the
24 State Board of Education for adoption under Section 28.002 the
25 essential knowledge and skills of a course in applied mathematics
26 and a course in applied science for use in public high schools. A
27 course developed under this section must be designed to prepare

1 students for success in college courses and in advanced technical
2 occupations.

3 (c) A student who successfully completes a course developed
4 under this section may use the credit earned in the course toward
5 satisfying the applicable mathematics or science curriculum
6 requirement for the standard high school program under Section
7 28.025.

8 (d) The agency, in consultation with the Texas Higher
9 Education Coordinating Board, shall adopt an end-of-course
10 assessment instrument for each course developed under this section
11 to ensure the rigor of the course. A school district shall, in
12 accordance with State Board of Education rules, administer the
13 end-of-course assessment instrument to a student enrolled in a
14 course developed under this section. Each school district shall
15 adopt a policy that requires a student's performance on the
16 end-of-course assessment instrument to account for 15 percent of
17 the student's final grade for the course. A student's performance
18 on an end-of-course assessment instrument administered under this
19 subsection is not subject to the graduation requirements
20 established under Section 39.025.

21 (e) The agency, in coordination with the Texas Higher
22 Education Coordinating Board, shall adopt a series of optional
23 questions to be included in an end-of-course assessment instrument
24 administered under Subsection (d) to be used for purposes of
25 Section 51.3062. The optional questions must be developed in a
26 manner consistent with any college readiness standards adopted
27 under Sections 39.113 and 51.3062. A student's performance on an

1 optional question adopted under this subsection may not be used to
2 determine the student's performance on an end-of-course assessment
3 instrument.

4 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt instructional
5 materials for a course developed under this section in accordance
6 with Chapter 31. The instructional materials must include
7 technology resources that enhance the effectiveness of the course
8 and draw on established best practices.

9 (g) Not later than October 1, 2008, the State Board of
10 Education shall adopt essential knowledge and skills for each
11 course developed under this section. The State Board of Education
12 shall make each course developed under this section and the related
13 instructional materials available to school districts beginning
14 with the 2010-2011 school year. As required by Subsection (d), a
15 school district shall adopt a policy requiring a student's
16 performance on an end-of-course assessment instrument administered
17 under that subsection to account for 15 percent of the student's
18 grade for a course developed under this section beginning with the
19 2011-2012 school year. This subsection expires September 1, 2012.

20 SECTION 16. Section 28.0212, Education Code, is amended by
21 adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

22 (d) The agency shall establish minimum standards for a
23 personal graduation plan under this section.

24 (e) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
25 administer this section.

26 (f) Each school district is encouraged to establish for each
27 student entering grade nine a personal graduation plan that

1 identifies a course of study that:

2 (1) promotes:

3 (A) college and workforce readiness; and

4 (B) career placement and advancement; and

5 (2) facilitates the student's transition from
6 secondary to postsecondary education.

7 SECTION 17. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 28.0216 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 28.0216. LIMITS ON ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO TEACHERS.

10 (a) This section applies only to a school district with an
11 enrollment of 5,000 or more students.

12 (b) In a subject for which a student is assessed under
13 Section 39.023(a) or (c), a student in grade seven through 12 may
14 not be assigned for two consecutive years to a teacher who:

15 (1) has less than one year of teaching experience; and

16 (2) does not hold the appropriate certificate required
17 under Section 21.003.

18 (c) The prohibition prescribed by Subsection (b) does not
19 apply if the student's parent or other person standing in parental
20 relation to the student and a school counselor or school
21 administrator agree that assignment of the student to the teacher
22 should be allowed.

23 (d) The commissioner may grant a waiver from the
24 requirements of this section to a school district if the
25 commissioner finds that extreme circumstances in the district
26 warrant the waiver. The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary
27 to implement this section.

1 SECTION 18. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by
2 amending Subsection (b-1) and adding Subsection (b-2) to read as
3 follows:

4 (b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require
5 that:

6 (1) except as provided by Subsection (b-2), the
7 curriculum requirements for the recommended and advanced high
8 school programs under Subsection (a) include a requirement that
9 students successfully complete four courses in each subject of the
10 foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1); and

11 (2) one or more courses offered in the required
12 curriculum for the recommended and advanced high school programs
13 include a research writing component.

14 (b-2) In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State
15 Board of Education shall allow a student to comply with the
16 curriculum requirements for a mathematics course under Subsection
17 (b-1)(1) taken after the successful completion of an Algebra II
18 course or science course under Subsection (b-1)(1) taken after the
19 successful completion of a physics course by successfully
20 completing an advanced career and technical course designated by
21 the State Board of Education as containing substantively similar
22 and rigorous academic content. A student may use the option
23 provided by this subsection for not more than two courses.

24 SECTION 19. Sections 28.025(a), (b), (e), and (g),
25 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

26 (a) The State Board of Education by rule shall determine
27 curriculum requirements for the standard [~~minimum~~], recommended,

1 and advanced high school programs that are consistent with the
2 required curriculum under Section 28.002.

3 (b) A school district shall ensure that each student enrolls
4 in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements
5 identified by the State Board of Education under Subsection (a) for
6 the recommended or advanced high school program unless the student,
7 the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation
8 to the student, and a school counselor or school administrator
9 agree that the student should be permitted to take courses under the
10 standard [~~minimum~~] high school program.

11 (e) Each school district shall report the academic
12 achievement record of students who have completed a standard
13 [~~minimum~~], recommended, or advanced high school program on
14 transcript forms adopted by the State Board of Education. The
15 transcript forms adopted by the board must be designed to clearly
16 differentiate between each of the high school programs and identify
17 whether a student received a diploma or a certificate of coursework
18 completion.

19 (g) If a student, other than a student permitted to take
20 courses under the standard [~~minimum~~] high school program as
21 provided by Subsection (b), is unable to complete the recommended
22 or advanced high school program solely because necessary courses
23 were unavailable to the student at the appropriate times in the
24 student's high school career as a result of course scheduling, lack
25 of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the student's
26 control, the school district shall indicate that fact on the
27 student's transcript form described by Subsection (e).

1 SECTION 20. Sections 28.0252(a), (b), and (c), Education
2 Code, are amended to read as follows:

3 (a) A school district shall adopt a [~~The commissioner may~~
4 ~~develop a standard~~] method of computing a student's high school
5 grade point average that provides for the [~~additional~~] weight [~~to~~
6 ~~be~~] given to each dual credit course completed by a student to be
7 equal to the weight given to each comparable honors course,
8 advanced placement course, or international baccalaureate course[~~,~~
9 ~~or dual credit course completed by a student~~].

10 (b) A [~~If the commissioner develops a standard method under~~
11 ~~this section, a~~] school district shall use the [~~standard~~] method
12 adopted under Subsection (a) to compute a student's high school
13 grade point average, and the student's grade point average computed
14 in that manner shall be used in determining the student's class rank
15 and eligibility for automatic college admission under Section
16 51.803.

17 (c) The commissioner shall [~~may~~] adopt rules necessary to
18 implement this section.

19 SECTION 21. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
20 amended by adding Sections 29.095 through 29.098 to read as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 29.095. GRANTS FOR STUDENT CLUBS. (a) In this
23 section:

24 (1) "Committee" means the High School Completion and
25 Success Initiative Committee established under Subchapter L,
26 Chapter 39.

27 (2) "Student at risk of dropping out of school" has the

1 meaning assigned by Section 29.081(d).

2 (b) The committee shall administer a pilot program to
3 provide grants to school districts to fund student club activities
4 for students at risk of dropping out of school. From funds
5 appropriated for purposes of this subchapter, the committee shall
6 spend an amount not to exceed \$5 million in any state fiscal
7 biennium on the program.

8 (c) The committee may recommend and the commissioner may
9 award a grant as provided by Section 39.360 in an amount not to
10 exceed \$5,000 in a school year to a school district on behalf of a
11 student club at a district high school campus that is eligible under
12 the criteria established under Section 39.360. To be eligible for a
13 grant, the student club and the club's sponsor must be sanctioned by
14 the campus and district. A grant awarded under this program must be
15 matched by other federal, state, or local funds, including
16 donations, in an amount equal to the amount of the grant. A district
17 shall seek donations or sponsorships from local businesses or
18 community organizations to raise the matching funds. The committee
19 may recommend and the commissioner may award a grant as provided by
20 Section 39.360 on behalf of more than one student club at a campus
21 in the same school year.

22 (d) The committee shall establish application criteria for
23 receipt of a grant under this section. The criteria must require
24 confirmation that the appropriate campus-level planning and
25 decision-making committee established under Subchapter F, Chapter
26 11, and the school district board of trustees have approved a plan
27 that includes:

1 (1) a description of the student club;

2 (2) a statement of the student club's goals, intent,
3 and activities;

4 (3) a statement of the source of funds to be used to
5 match the grant;

6 (4) a budget for the student club;

7 (5) a statement showing that the student club's
8 finances are sustainable; and

9 (6) any other information the committee requires.

10 (e) The committee shall establish the minimum requirements
11 for a local grant agreement, including requiring:

12 (1) the agreement to be signed by the sponsor of a
13 student club receiving a grant and another authorized school
14 district officer; and

15 (2) the district and the student club to participate
16 in an evaluation, as determined by the committee, of the club's
17 program and the program's effect on student achievement and dropout
18 rates.

19 (f) A student club may use funds awarded under this section
20 to support academic or co-curricular club activities, other than
21 athletics, in which at least 50 percent of the participating
22 students have been identified as students at risk of dropping out of
23 school. A student club may use funds for materials, sponsor
24 stipends, and other needs that directly support the club's
25 activities. A student club must use the entire amount of the grant
26 to directly fund the club's activities described in the plan
27 approved as provided by Subsection (d). A student club may not use

1 more than 50 percent of a grant to pay sponsor stipends.

2 (g) The school district board of trustees shall ensure that
3 funds awarded under this section are expended in compliance with
4 Subsection (f). At the end of the school year, a student club that
5 receives a grant must submit a report to the board of trustees
6 summarizing the club's activities and the extent to which the club
7 met the club's goals and achieved the club's intent. The decision
8 of the board of trustees under this subsection relating to
9 compliance with Subsection (f) is final and may not be appealed.

10 Sec. 29.096. COLLABORATIVE DROPOUT REDUCTION PILOT
11 PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

12 (1) "Committee" means the High School Completion and
13 Success Initiative Committee established under Subchapter L,
14 Chapter 39.

15 (2) "Skilled employee" means an employee who has
16 acquired knowledge in a technical field sufficient to successfully
17 perform assigned duties.

18 (b) Using funds appropriated for that purpose, the
19 committee shall establish a pilot program under which a school
20 district or open-enrollment charter school may receive a grant to
21 implement a local collaborative dropout reduction program.

22 (c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school is
23 eligible to participate and receive a grant under this section
24 under the eligibility criteria established under Section 39.360.

25 (d) The committee shall establish application criteria for
26 receiving a grant under this section. The criteria must require a
27 school district or open-enrollment charter school that applies for

1 a grant to collaborate with local businesses, including local
2 businesses that employ skilled employees, other local governments
3 or law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based
4 organizations, individuals residing in the area in which the
5 district or charter school is located who have expertise in
6 technology and career-oriented opportunities in the public
7 setting, or institutions of higher education, including private
8 trade or technical schools accredited by an accrediting entity
9 recognized by the commissioner or by another state officer or
10 agency, to deliver proven, research-based intervention services.
11 The goal of the program is to coordinate services and programs among
12 local entities to:

13 (1) comprehensively reduce the number of students who
14 drop out of school in that community; and

15 (2) increase the job skills, employment
16 opportunities, and continuing education opportunities of students
17 who might otherwise have dropped out of school.

18 (e) The committee shall establish minimum standards for a
19 local collaborative agreement, including a requirement that the
20 agreement must be signed by an authorized school district or
21 open-enrollment charter school officer and an authorized
22 representative of each of the other participating entities that is
23 a partner in the collaboration. The program must:

24 (1) limit participation in the program to students
25 authorized to participate by a parent or other person standing in
26 parental relationship;

27 (2) have as a primary goal graduation from high school

1 under at least the recommended high school program;

2 (3) provide for local businesses or other employers to
3 offer paid employment or internship opportunities and advanced
4 career and vocational training;

5 (4) include an outreach component and a lead
6 educational staff member to identify and involve eligible students
7 and public and private entities in participating in the program;

8 (5) serve a population of students of which at least 50
9 percent are identified as students at risk of dropping out of
10 school, as described by Section 29.081(d);

11 (6) allocate not more than 15 percent of grant funds
12 and matching funds, as determined by the committee, to
13 administrative expenses;

14 (7) include matching funds from any of the
15 participating entities; and

16 (8) include any other requirements as determined by
17 the committee.

18 (f) A local collaborative agreement under this section may:

19 (1) be coordinated with other services provided to
20 students or their families by public or private entities;

21 (2) provide for local businesses to support the
22 program, including:

23 (A) encouraging employees to engage in mentoring
24 students and other school-related volunteer activities; and

25 (B) using matching funds to provide paid time off
26 for volunteer activities under Paragraph (A) and other activities
27 related to encouraging school involvement of parents of students

1 enrolled in the program;

2 (3) allow grant funds to reimburse reasonable costs of
3 participating entities;

4 (4) provide for electronic course delivery by a school
5 district, an open-enrollment charter school, or an institution of
6 higher education; and

7 (5) be hosted or housed by a chamber of commerce, local
8 workforce agency, local employer, or other public or private
9 participating entity.

10 (g) The committee may approve innovative instructional
11 techniques for course credit in the enrichment curriculum leading
12 to high school graduation under a collaborative program and shall
13 develop accountability measures appropriate to those programs.
14 From funds appropriated, the commissioner may fund electronic
15 courses that are part of a collaborative program and that are
16 otherwise eligible for state funds. Funding for an electronic
17 course may not exceed the total amount of state and local funding
18 for a student to which the school district or open-enrollment
19 charter school would otherwise be entitled.

20 (h) Nothing in this section authorizes the award of a high
21 school diploma other than in compliance with Section 28.025.

22 (i) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
23 administer the pilot program under this section.

24 Sec. 29.097. INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY/CAREER-ORIENTED AND
25 SCHOLASTICALLY INNOVATIVE ACADEMIC INTERVENTION PILOT PROGRAM.

26 (a) In this section:

27 (1) "Committee" means the High School Completion and

1 Success Initiative Committee established under Subchapter L,
2 Chapter 39.

3 (2) "Pilot program" means the intensive
4 technology-based academic intervention pilot program.

5 (b) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the board
6 shall establish a pilot program for the commissioner to award
7 grants to participating campuses to provide intensive
8 technology/career-oriented and scholastically innovative
9 supplementary instruction in English, mathematics, science, or
10 social studies to students in grades nine through 12 identified as
11 being at risk of dropping out of school, as described by Section
12 29.081(d). Instruction techniques and technology used by a campus
13 under this section must be based on the best available research, as
14 determined by the board, regarding college and workforce readiness.

15 (c) The commissioner may select for participation in the
16 pilot program only a campus that is eligible under the criteria
17 established under Section 39.360.

18 (d) A program supported by a grant under this section to
19 provide intensive technology/career-oriented and scholastically
20 innovative supplementary instruction at a campus must:

21 (1) include comprehensive course plans and teacher
22 guides that are aligned with one or more subjects of the foundation
23 curriculum described by Section 28.002(a)(1);

24 (2) include technology/career-oriented and
25 scholastically innovative supplementary instruction that will
26 provide a student with the opportunity to learn skills necessary to
27 acquire employment that provides a decent wage and opportunity for

1 advancement;

2 (3) include at least four cumulative days of training,
3 professional development, and mentoring for teachers;

4 (4) provide students individual access to
5 technology-based supplementary instruction at least 90 minutes
6 each week;

7 (5) provide teachers daily access to required
8 technology;

9 (6) demonstrate significant effectiveness in high
10 schools serving students identified as being at risk of dropping
11 out of school, as described by Section 29.081(d);

12 (7) be selected in consultation with the teachers at
13 the affected campus; and

14 (8) be implemented in partnership with institutions of
15 higher education.

16 (e) The primary purpose of a program supported by a grant
17 under this section to provide intensive technology-based
18 supplementary instruction at a campus is to benefit students
19 identified as being at risk of dropping out of school, as described
20 by Section 29.081(d), but grant funds may be used to benefit a
21 campus-wide program if the use of the funds does not defeat the
22 primary purpose provided by this subsection.

23 (f) A grant awarded under this section:

24 (1) may not exceed \$50 for each participating student;
25 and

26 (2) must be matched by other federal, state, or local
27 funds, including private donations.

1 (g) For purposes of Subsection (f)(2), a school district is
2 encouraged to use funds allocated under Section 42.2516(b)(3).

3 (h) A grant awarded under this section may not be used to
4 replace federal, state, or local funds previously spent on an
5 instructional program, but may be used to expand an existing
6 program.

7 (i) The entire amount of a grant awarded under this section:

8 (1) must fund the program described in the application
9 for the grant; and

10 (2) may be used for:

11 (A) supplementary instructional support systems;

12 (B) technology used primarily for the delivery of
13 supplementary instruction;

14 (C) teacher training and professional
15 development; and

16 (D) other necessary costs, as determined by the
17 committee.

18 Sec. 29.098. INTENSIVE SUMMER PROGRAMS. (a) In this
19 section, "pilot program" means the intensive summer pilot program
20 for students identified as being at risk of dropping out of school
21 or college.

22 (b) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the
23 commissioner of higher education by rule shall establish a pilot
24 program to award grants to participating campuses to provide
25 intensive academic instruction during the summer semester to
26 promote college and workforce readiness to students identified as
27 being at risk of dropping out of school or college. A grant awarded

1 under this section may be used to fund any of the following
2 categories of programs:

3 (1) a program administered by an institution of higher
4 education to provide intensive academic instruction in English
5 language arts, mathematics, and science to facilitate the student's
6 transition from high school to a postsecondary institution;

7 (2) a program administered by a school district in
8 partnership with an institution of higher education to provide
9 intensive academic instruction in English language arts,
10 mathematics, and science to promote high school completion and
11 college readiness; and

12 (3) a program administered by a school district in
13 partnership with an institution of higher education to provide
14 intensive academic instruction in reading and mathematics to
15 students in grades six through eight to promote high school
16 completion and college readiness.

17 (c) The commissioner of higher education may select for
18 participation in the pilot program only a campus that is eligible
19 under the criteria established under Section 39.360.

20 (d) A grant may be awarded to an institution of higher
21 education for a program administered under Subsection (b)(1) only
22 if at least 50 percent of the students served in the program:

23 (1) have a score on the Scholastic Assessment Test
24 (SAT) or American College Test (ACT) that is equal to a score less
25 than the national mean score;

26 (2) have been awarded a grant under the federal Pell
27 grant program;

1 (3) are at least 20 years of age on the date the
2 student initially enrolls in the institution of higher education;
3 or

4 (4) have enrolled or will initially enroll as a
5 part-time student.

6 (e) A program supported by a grant to provide intensive
7 summer instruction under this section must:

8 (1) provide rigorous academic instruction;

9 (2) provide at least four weeks of instruction; and

10 (3) for a program described by Subsection (b)(2) or
11 (3), be designed and implemented in partnership with an institution
12 of higher education.

13 (f) To the extent practicable, an institution of higher
14 education shall create work-study opportunities for students
15 enrolled in teacher preparation programs to assist in providing
16 instruction in programs described by this section.

17 (g) A grant awarded under this section:

18 (1) may not exceed \$750 for each participating
19 student; and

20 (2) must be matched by not less than \$250 for each
21 participating student in other federal, state, or local funds,
22 including private donations.

23 (h) For purposes of Subsection (g)(2), a school district is
24 encouraged to use funds allocated under Section 42.2516(b)(3).

25 (i) A grant awarded under this section may not be used to
26 replace federal, state, or local funds previously spent on a summer
27 intensive program, but may be used to expand an existing program.

1 (j) The entire amount of a grant awarded under this section:

2 (1) must fund the program described in the application
3 for the grant; and

4 (2) may be used for:

5 (A) instructional materials;

6 (B) technology used primarily for the delivery of
7 supplementary instruction;

8 (C) teacher training and professional
9 development, including educator stipends; and

10 (D) other necessary costs, as determined by the
11 commissioner of higher education.

12 (k) The commissioner of education and the commissioner of
13 higher education shall jointly develop or adopt assessment
14 instruments to diagnose students' readiness to perform
15 college-level work, assess the cumulative knowledge of students
16 participating in a program under this section, and ensure the
17 rigorous quality of the instruction provided. To the extent
18 practicable and appropriate, existing state-adopted assessment
19 instruments should be used for purposes of this subsection.

20 (l) All students enrolled in a program under this section
21 shall be administered an assessment instrument developed or adopted
22 under Subsection (k).

23 (m) The commissioner of education, in coordination with the
24 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall adopt a series of
25 optional questions to be included in an assessment instrument
26 administered under Subsection (l). The optional questions must be
27 developed in a manner consistent with any college readiness

1 standards adopted under Sections 39.113 and 51.3062.

2 (n) Instructional materials adopted by the State Board of
3 Education shall be used for instruction in a program under
4 Subsection (b)(2) or (3). The State Board of Education may adopt
5 any additional instructional materials as necessary for a program
6 under Subsection (b)(2) or (3). The Texas Higher Education
7 Coordinating Board may adopt instructional materials as necessary
8 for students enrolled in a program under Subsection (b)(1).

9 (o) The State Board of Education and the Texas Higher
10 Education Coordinating Board shall include information technology
11 instructional resources that incorporate established best
12 practices for instruction among approved instructional materials
13 for intensive summer programs under this section to enhance the
14 effectiveness of the programs.

15 SECTION 22. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
16 amended by adding Sections 29.917, 29.918, and 29.919 to read as
17 follows:

18 Sec. 29.917. HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE READINESS
19 PROGRAMS. (a) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the
20 commissioner may award grants to organizations that provide
21 volunteers to teach classroom or after-school programs to enhance:

- 22 (1) college readiness;
23 (2) workforce readiness;
24 (3) dropout prevention;
25 (4) personal financial literacy; or
26 (5) adult education.

27 (b) To implement or administer a program under this section,

1 the commissioner may accept gifts, grants, and donations from
2 public or private entities.

3 (c) The commissioner may conduct a study of the programs
4 under this section to determine the success of the programs in
5 preparing students for higher education and participation in the
6 workforce.

7 Sec. 29.918. DROPOUT PREVENTION STRATEGIES. (a)
8 Notwithstanding Section 42.152, a school district or
9 open-enrollment charter school with a high dropout rate, as
10 determined by the commissioner, must submit a plan to the
11 commissioner describing the manner in which the district or charter
12 school intends to use the compensatory education allotment under
13 Section 42.152 for developing and implementing research-based
14 strategies for dropout prevention. The district or charter school
15 shall submit the plan not later than December 1 of each school year
16 preceding the school year in which the district or charter school
17 will receive the compensatory education allotment to which the plan
18 applies.

19 (b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school to
20 which this section applies may not spend or obligate more than 25
21 percent of the district's or charter school's compensatory
22 education allotment unless the commissioner approves the plan
23 submitted under Subsection (a). The commissioner shall complete an
24 initial review of the district's or charter school's plan not later
25 than March 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which
26 the district or charter school will receive the compensatory
27 education allotment to which the plan applies.

1 (c) The commissioner shall adopt rules to administer this
2 section. The commissioner may impose sanctions under Section
3 39.131 or 39.1321 if a school district or open-enrollment charter
4 school fails to timely comply with this section.

5 Sec. 29.919. TECHNOLOGY-BASED SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION
6 PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner shall establish a pilot
7 program under which state grant funds are provided to finance
8 technology-based supplemental instruction to students at the sixth
9 through 12th grade levels at participating campuses.

10 (b) A campus is eligible to participate in the program and
11 receive state grant funds if the campus is located in a school
12 district that:

13 (1) has an enrollment of fewer than 5,000 students;
14 and

15 (2) is not located in an area defined by the United
16 States Office of Management and Budget as a standard metropolitan
17 statistical area as of January 1, 2007.

18 (c) The commissioner shall develop an application and
19 selection process for selecting campuses to participate in the
20 program. The commissioner shall give priority to a campus that
21 offers a relatively limited course selection to students, in
22 comparison to the course selections generally offered to students
23 in metropolitan areas.

24 (d) A campus selected to participate in the program is
25 entitled to receive state grant funds in an amount not to exceed
26 \$200 each school year for each student in an eligible grade level
27 served through the program. The state grant funds must be used to

1 provide technology-based supplemental instruction for students at
2 the eligible grade levels. Permissible expenditures under the
3 program include costs incurred to provide:

4 (1) research-based instructional support;

5 (2) teacher training;

6 (3) academic tutoring or counseling;

7 (4) distance learning opportunities that use the
8 Internet and are aligned with the essential knowledge and skills
9 adopted under Section 28.002 for the subject areas of English
10 language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, and languages
11 other than English, as applicable; and

12 (5) distance learning opportunities that enable
13 students to earn college credit in the subject areas of English
14 language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, or languages
15 other than English.

16 (e) As a condition of receiving a state grant, a campus must
17 contribute additional funding for activities provided at the campus
18 through the program, in an amount equal to at least \$100 each school
19 year for each student in an eligible grade level served through the
20 program. The additional funding required by this subsection may
21 consist of local funds, private funds, or state funds other than
22 grant funds provided under this section. For program activities
23 provided at the high school level, the high school allotment
24 provided under Section 42.2516(b)(3) may be used to meet the
25 additional funding requirement prescribed by this subsection.

26 (f) A campus participating in the program must make
27 instructional support services available to students outside of

1 regular school hours for at least 10 hours each week.

2 (g) The commissioner shall pay the costs of the program
3 using funds available for that purpose, not to exceed \$4 million
4 each fiscal year or a greater amount specified by the General
5 Appropriations Act.

6 (h) Using funds available for the program in an amount not
7 to exceed \$150,000 each fiscal year, the commissioner shall
8 contract for an evaluation of the program's effectiveness in
9 improving student performance. Not later than December 1, 2008,
10 the commissioner shall deliver an interim report containing the
11 results of the evaluation. Not later than December 1, 2010, the
12 commissioner shall deliver a final report regarding the program to
13 the legislature.

14 (i) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
15 implement this section.

16 (j) This section expires September 1, 2011.

17 SECTION 23. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is
18 amended by adding Section 39.0252 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 39.0252. EXIT-LEVEL ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT INTENSIVE
20 PREPARATION ACADEMIES. (a) This section applies only to a school
21 district with an enrollment of 5,000 or more students.

22 (b) For any school year in which state funds are
23 appropriated for purposes of this section, a school district in
24 which five percent or more of the students fail to perform
25 satisfactorily on an assessment instrument specified by Section
26 39.025(a) shall, at the end of the school year, operate an intensive
27 preparation academy to prepare those students to retake the

1 assessment instrument.

2 (c) An intensive preparation academy must:

3 (1) be operated for at least 30 school days;

4 (2) include instruction in the curriculum material
5 most likely to be included in the assessment instruments specified
6 by Section 39.025(a); and

7 (3) include instruction in strategies for performing
8 satisfactorily on the assessment instruments.

9 (d) A student who fails to perform satisfactorily on an
10 assessment instrument specified by Section 39.025(a) shall attend
11 each portion of an intensive preparation academy under this section
12 relating to that assessment instrument or to strategies described
13 by Subsection (c)(3).

14 SECTION 24. Subchapter F, Chapter 39, Education Code, is
15 amended by adding Sections 39.115 and 39.116 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 39.115. HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION GRANT INITIATIVE. (a)
17 From funds appropriated for that purpose, the High School
18 Completion and Success Initiative Committee established under
19 Subchapter L may establish a grant program under which grants are
20 awarded to secondary campuses and school districts to support:

21 (1) the implementation of innovative high school
22 improvement programs that are based on the best available research,
23 as determined by the committee, regarding high school reform,
24 dropout prevention, and preparing students for postsecondary
25 coursework or employment; and

26 (2) enhancing education practices that have been
27 demonstrated by significant evidence of effectiveness, as

1 determined by the committee.

2 (b) To receive a grant under this section, the High School
3 Completion and Success Initiative Committee may require a campus or
4 school district to:

5 (1) obtain local matching funds; or

6 (2) meet other conditions, including developing a
7 personal graduation plan under Section 28.0212 for each student
8 enrolled at the campus or in a district high school.

9 Sec. 39.116. RECONSTITUTION ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVE. (a)

10 In order to prevent dropouts and disruptions that result from
11 reconstitution of campuses, the commissioner is not required to
12 take action under Section 39.1324(a) during the second consecutive
13 school year for which a campus is identified as academically
14 unacceptable or, regardless of the continued identification of the
15 campus as academically unacceptable, during the third school year
16 if:

17 (1) the campus demonstrates improvement, as measured
18 from the preceding school year, in relation to performance on the
19 indicator or indicators under Section 39.051 on which the
20 identification as academically unacceptable for the current school
21 year is based; or

22 (2) the identification of the campus as academically
23 unacceptable for the current year is based on a single indicator
24 under Section 39.051 that:

25 (A) was not a basis for identification of the
26 campus as academically unacceptable for the preceding school year;

27 and

1 (B) is based on the performance of a group of
2 students that is not more than 30 percent of the total campus
3 student population.

4 (b) Notwithstanding Section 39.1324(b), a principal who has
5 been employed by the campus in that capacity during the period
6 described by Subsection (a) and whose campus has not demonstrated
7 adequate improvement may not be retained at that campus.

8 (c) Section 39.1324(e) does not apply and closure of a
9 campus is not required if the identification as academically
10 unacceptable is based on a single indicator under Section 39.051
11 that:

12 (1) was not a basis for identification of the campus as
13 academically unacceptable for the preceding school year; and

14 (2) is based on the performance of a group of students
15 that is not more than 30 percent of the total campus student
16 population.

17 SECTION 25. Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by
18 adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

19 SUBCHAPTER L. HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION AND SUCCESS INITIATIVE

20 Sec. 39.351. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "committee"
21 means the High School Completion and Success Initiative Committee.

22 Sec. 39.352. HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION AND SUCCESS INITIATIVE
23 COMMITTEE. (a) The High School Completion and Success Initiative
24 Committee is established to coordinate high school completion
25 efforts.

26 (b) The committee is composed of:

27 (1) the commissioner of education;

1 (2) the commissioner of higher education; and
2 (3) seven members appointed by the commissioner of
3 education.

4 (c) In making appointments required by Subsection (b)(3),
5 the commissioner of education shall appoint:

6 (1) three members from a list of nominations provided
7 by the governor;

8 (2) two members from a list of nominations provided by
9 the lieutenant governor; and

10 (3) two members from a list of nominations provided by
11 the speaker of the house of representatives.

12 (d) In making nominations under Subsection (c), the
13 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
14 representatives shall nominate persons who have distinguished
15 experience in:

16 (1) developing and implementing high school reform
17 strategies; and

18 (2) promoting college and workforce readiness.

19 Sec. 39.353. TERMS. Members of the committee appointed
20 under Section 39.352(b)(3) serve terms of two years and may be
21 reappointed for additional terms.

22 Sec. 39.354. PRESIDING OFFICER. The commissioner of
23 education serves as the presiding officer of the committee.

24 Sec. 39.355. COMMITTEE MEETINGS. Meetings of the committee
25 are subject to Chapter 551, Government Code.

26 Sec. 39.356. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of
27 the committee is not entitled to compensation for service on the

1 committee but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary
2 expenses incurred in performing committee duties.

3 Sec. 39.357. COMMITTEE STAFF AND FUNDING. (a) Except as
4 otherwise provided, staff members of the agency, with the
5 assistance of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall
6 provide administrative support for the committee.

7 (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses
8 of the committee shall be provided by appropriation to the agency
9 for that purpose and by gifts, grants, and donations solicited and
10 accepted by the agency for that purpose.

11 Sec. 39.358. ADVISORY PANELS. (a) The committee may
12 establish advisory panels to assist the committee under this
13 subchapter.

14 (b) An advisory panel member may be an educator, researcher,
15 or any other knowledgeable person as determined by the committee.

16 Sec. 39.359. STRATEGIC PLAN. (a) The committee shall
17 adopt a strategic plan under this subchapter to:

18 (1) address the manner in which federal and state
19 funds appropriated or received for the purposes of high school
20 reform, dropout prevention, and preparation of students for
21 postsecondary coursework or employment shall be distributed;

22 (2) specify strategies to identify, support, and
23 expand programs to improve high school completion rates and college
24 and workforce readiness;

25 (3) develop and recommend the award of grants as
26 provided by Section 39.360 that support the strategic plan adopted
27 under this section, including grants awarded under Sections

1 21.4511, 21.4541, 29.095, 29.096, 29.097, 29.098, and 39.115;

2 (4) establish criteria for scoring grant applications
3 subject to the strategic plan and for recommending the award of
4 grants as provided by Section 39.360 on the basis of the criteria
5 adopted;

6 (5) recommend the award of grants as provided by
7 Section 39.360 to school districts, open-enrollment charter
8 schools, institutions of higher education, regional education
9 service centers, or nonprofit organizations to meet the goals of
10 the committee's strategic plan; and

11 (6) ensure that appropriate research and program
12 evaluation is conducted as provided by this subchapter.

13 (b) The commissioner of education and the commissioner of
14 higher education shall adopt rules as necessary to administer the
15 strategic plan adopted by the committee under this section.

16 Sec. 39.360. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CERTAIN GRANT
17 PROGRAMS. (a) A school district or campus is eligible to
18 participate in programs under Sections 21.4541, 29.095, 29.096,
19 29.097, and 29.098 if the district or campus:

20 (1) exhibited during the 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and
21 2006-2007 school years characteristics that strongly correlate
22 with high school dropout rates; and

23 (2) is located in a community that, based on the most
24 recent census data, exhibits demographic characteristics that
25 strongly correlate with high dropout rates.

26 (b) The commissioner of education or the commissioner of
27 higher education, as appropriate, in consultation with the state

1 demographer, shall develop eligibility criteria based on relevant
2 state and federal data that:

3 (1) identifies eligible high schools to receive grants
4 under each program; and

5 (2) ensures that each group of eligible high schools
6 provides services to at least 150,000 students.

7 Sec. 39.361. GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW. From funds
8 appropriated for high school completion and success, the board
9 shall set aside not more than \$500,000 annually to contract with one
10 or more persons who have experience in reviewing grant applications
11 to score grant applications subject to the criteria established
12 under the strategic plan and make funding recommendations to the
13 committee.

14 Sec. 39.362. PRIVATE FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIPS. (a) The
15 committee may coordinate with private foundations that have made a
16 substantial investment in the improvement of high schools in this
17 state to maximize the impact of public and private investments.

18 (b) A private foundation is not required to obtain the
19 approval of the committee under Subsection (a) before allocating
20 resources to a school in this state.

21 Sec. 39.363. GRANT PROGRAM EVALUATION. (a) From funds
22 appropriated for high school completion and success, the
23 commissioner of education shall set aside not more than \$1.5
24 million annually to contract for the evaluation of programs
25 supported by grants approved under this subchapter. In awarding a
26 contract under this subsection, the commissioner shall consider
27 centers for education research established under Section 1.005.

1 (b) A person who receives a grant approved under this
2 subchapter must consent to an evaluation under this section as a
3 condition of receiving the grant.

4 (c) The commissioner shall ensure that a rigorous
5 evaluation is conducted under this section. Results of the
6 evaluation shall be provided through the online clearinghouse of
7 information relating to the best practices of campuses and school
8 districts established under Section 7.009.

9 Sec. 39.364. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) Based on the
10 strategic plan adopted under this section, the committee shall make
11 recommendations to the commissioner of education or the
12 commissioner of higher education, as applicable, using the review
13 and evaluation processes established by the committee for the award
14 of federal and state funds appropriated or received for high school
15 reform, college readiness, and dropout prevention.

16 (b) The committee shall include recommendations under this
17 section for:

18 (1) program design;

19 (2) criteria for awarding grants and evaluating
20 programs; and

21 (3) program funding levels.

22 (c) The commissioner of education or the commissioner of
23 higher education, as applicable, shall consider the committee's
24 recommendations and based on those recommendations may award grants
25 to school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, institutions
26 of higher education, regional education service centers, and
27 nonprofit organizations to meet the goals of the committee's

1 strategic plan.

2 (d) If the commissioner of education or the commissioner of
3 higher education, as applicable, decides not to award a grant
4 contrary to the committee's recommendation, the commissioner shall
5 provide a written explanation of the commissioner's decision.

6 (e) The commissioner of education or the commissioner of
7 higher education may not award a grant under this section without
8 the recommendation of the committee.

9 Sec. 39.365. FUNDING FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS. (a) From funds
10 appropriated, the agency shall transfer \$8.75 million each year to
11 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish
12 mathematics, science, and technology teacher preparation academies
13 under Section 21.462 and implement and administer the program under
14 Section 29.098.

15 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
16 establish mathematics, science, and technology teacher preparation
17 academies under Section 21.462 and implement and administer the
18 program under Section 29.098 in a manner consistent with the goals
19 of this subchapter and the goals in "Closing the Gaps," the state's
20 master plan for higher education.

21 Sec. 39.366. REPORTS. (a) Not later than December 1 of
22 each even-numbered year, the committee shall prepare and deliver a
23 report to the legislature that recommends any statutory changes the
24 committee considers appropriate to promote high school completion
25 and college and workforce readiness.

26 (b) Not later than March 1 and September 1 of each year, the
27 commissioner of education shall prepare and deliver a progress

1 report to the presiding officers of the standing committees of each
2 house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over public
3 education, the Legislative Budget Board, and the Governor's Office
4 of Policy and Planning on:

5 (1) the implementation of Sections 7.031, 21.4511,
6 21.4541, 21.462, 28.008(d-1), 28.0212(d), 29.095-29.098, 29.918,
7 and 39.115 and this subchapter; and

8 (2) the programs supported by grants approved under
9 this subchapter.

10 Sec. 39.367. RULES. The commissioner of education and the
11 commissioner of higher education shall adopt rules as necessary to
12 administer this subchapter and any programs under the authority of
13 the commissioner of education or the commissioner of higher
14 education and the committee under this subchapter.

15 SECTION 26. Section 42.003(a), Education Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 (a) A student is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation
18 School Program if, on September 1 of the school year, the student is
19 5 years of age or older and under 21 years of age [~~on September 1 of~~
20 ~~the school year~~] and has not graduated from high school, or is at
21 least 21 years of age and under 26 years of age and has been admitted
22 by a school district to complete the requirements for a high school
23 diploma.

24 SECTION 27. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
25 amended by adding Section 61.0767 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 61.0767. CENTER FOR STUDY OF ADVANCED INSTRUCTIONAL
27 METHODS. (a) The board, in collaboration with public school

1 educators and faculty and staff of institutions of higher
2 education, shall establish and operate a center for the study and
3 development of advanced instructional methods and standards
4 intended to provide for the educational needs of students in public
5 schools and institutions of higher education and the workplace
6 needs of employers in the 21st century.

7 (b) In carrying out its mission, the center shall provide
8 services to officers and employees, as applicable, of school
9 districts, charter schools, regional education service centers,
10 the Texas Education Agency, the State Board of Education, the State
11 Board for Educator Certification, and institutions of higher
12 education by:

13 (1) studying and developing methods to improve
14 standards, instruction, and assessments in public schools and
15 institutions of higher education and disseminating information
16 concerning those methods;

17 (2) supporting the design and implementation of
18 technology-based instructional strategies and of professional
19 development for educators in using those strategies; and

20 (3) based on the best available research, adopting and
21 disseminating recommendations for improving the effectiveness of
22 instruction in public schools and institutions of higher education
23 through the use of technology-based instructional strategies.

24 SECTION 28. Subchapter A, Chapter 130, Education Code, is
25 amended by adding Section 130.0105 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 130.0105. STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE PILOT PROGRAM
27 AT ALAMO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT. (a) Alamo Community College

1 District shall establish a pilot program to collect and analyze
2 statistical data regarding the academic performance of district
3 students to:

4 (1) facilitate the accountability of the district
5 based on:

6 (A) the efficacy of district instruction; and

7 (B) the transition of district students to
8 four-year institutions of higher education; and

9 (2) further district education excellence
10 initiatives.

11 (b) This section expires September 1, 2017.

12 SECTION 29. Section 28.0252(b-1), Education Code, is
13 repealed.

14 SECTION 30. (a) The commissioner of education shall
15 prepare and deliver to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
16 speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding officers
17 of the standing committees of each house of the legislature with
18 primary jurisdiction over public education a preliminary report on
19 or before December 1, 2008, and a final report on or before December
20 1, 2010, as described by Subsection (b) of this section.

21 (b) The reports referred to in Subsection (a) of this
22 section must include an assessment of the impact of programs for
23 which grants have been awarded under Subchapter L, Chapter 39,
24 Education Code, as added by this Act, on:

25 (1) student performance on assessment instruments
26 administered under Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code;

27 (2) high school completion rates;

- 1 (3) college readiness of high school students;
2 (4) teacher effectiveness in instruction;
3 (5) cost-effectiveness of the programs; and
4 (6) any other factors the commissioner of education
5 determines relevant.

6 SECTION 31. As soon as practicable after the effective date
7 of this Act, each school district shall adopt a method of computing
8 a student's high school grade point average as required by Section
9 28.0252(a), Education Code, as amended by this Act.

10 SECTION 32. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008
11 school year.

12 SECTION 33. This Act takes effect immediately if it
13 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
14 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
15 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
16 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.