

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 2407

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to school district programs to reduce truancy and dropout rates.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.0891 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.0891. TRUANCY AND DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAMS. (a) The commissioner shall by rule establish procedures for awarding grants to school districts to be used in operating locally developed programs designed to reduce truancy and dropout rates at campuses considered academically unacceptable under Section 39.132.

(b) In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a school district's program must include the following components:

(1) specific, measurable performance indicators through which a school district may demonstrate the effectiveness of the program in reducing truancy and dropout rates at campuses considered academically unacceptable under Section 39.132, including at least the following indicators:

(A) reductions in the number of in-school suspensions;

(B) reductions in the number of students who are placed in a disciplinary alternative education program; and

1 (C) increases in student grade point averages;

2 (2) databases that are capable of reporting
3 information relating to truancy and dropout rates in a real-time
4 format;

5 (3) the establishment of a mechanism through which a
6 student assigned to a campus considered academically unacceptable
7 under Section 39.132 may anonymously contact a teacher, counselor,
8 or other school district employee for immediate counseling
9 regarding issues and problems that could result in truancy or
10 dropping out of school; and

11 (4) the preparation of at least one relational study
12 that evaluates the relationship between the measures implemented
13 through the program and truancy and dropout rates in the district.

14 (c) The mechanism required by Subsection (b)(3) may be
15 implemented through the Internet, a telephone hotline, or other
16 appropriate method of delivery.

17 (d) The commissioner shall fund the grants required by this
18 section by withholding an amount determined by the commissioner
19 from the total amount of funds appropriated for allotments under
20 Section 42.152. After withholding the determined amount, the
21 commissioner shall reduce each school district's tier one
22 allotments in the same manner described for a reduction in
23 allotments under Section 42.253 and shall allocate funds to each
24 district accordingly.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.