

By: Eissler

H.B. No. 2495

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the Texas Education Agency's online clearinghouse of
3 information concerning best practices for public schools and
4 open-enrollment charter schools.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 7.009, Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 7.009. BEST PRACTICES; CLEARINGHOUSE. (a) In
9 coordination with the Legislative Budget Board, the agency shall
10 establish an online clearinghouse of information relating to best
11 practices of campuses, ~~[and]~~ school districts, and open-enrollment
12 charter schools regarding instruction, public school finance,
13 resource allocation, and business practices. To the extent
14 practicable, the agency shall ensure that information provided
15 through the online clearinghouse is specific, actionable
16 information relating to the best practices of high-performing and
17 highly efficient campuses, ~~[and]~~ school districts, and
18 open-enrollment charter schools rather than general guidelines
19 relating to campus, ~~[and]~~ school district, and open-enrollment
20 charter school operation. The information must be accessible by
21 campuses, school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and
22 interested members of the public.

23 (b) The agency shall solicit and collect from the
24 Legislative Budget Board, centers for education research

1 established under Section 1.005, ~~and~~ exemplary or recognized
2 school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools,
3 as rated under Section 39.072, and campuses, school districts, and
4 open-enrollment charter schools identified under Subsection (c-1)
5 examples of best practices relating to instruction, public school
6 finance, resource allocation, and business practices, including
7 best practices relating to curriculum, scope and sequence,
8 compensation and incentive systems, bilingual education and
9 special language programs, compensatory education programs, and
10 the effective use of instructional technology, including online
11 courses.

12 (c) The agency shall contract for the services of one or
13 more third-party contractors to develop, implement, and maintain a
14 system of collecting and evaluating the best practices of campuses,
15 ~~and~~ school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools as
16 provided by this section. In addition to any other considerations
17 required by law, the agency must consider an applicant's
18 demonstrated competence and qualifications in analyzing campus,
19 ~~and~~ school district, and open-enrollment charter school
20 practices in awarding a contract under this subsection.

21 (c-1) The system developed under Subsection (c) must be
22 capable of evaluating campuses, school districts, and
23 open-enrollment charter schools using statistical analyses of
24 performance data of campuses, school districts, and
25 open-enrollment charter schools of similar demographics and
26 identify those campuses, school districts, and open-enrollment
27 charter schools that are high-performing and highly efficient. The

1 information described by this subsection must be accessible by
2 campuses, school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools
3 and presented in a manner that is clear and easy to understand.

4 (d) The commissioner may purchase from available funds
5 curriculum and other instructional or analytical tools identified
6 under this section to provide for use by school districts and
7 open-enrollment charter schools.

8 (e) Regional education service centers shall assist school
9 districts and open-enrollment charter schools in:

10 (1) using any instructional or analytical tools
11 provided by the commissioner under Subsection (d); and

12 (2) implementing best practices included in the online
13 clearinghouse under this section.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.