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H.B. No. 2504

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an intensive mathematics and algebra intervention pilot program in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.095 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.095. INTENSIVE MATHEMATICS AND ALGEBRA INTERVENTION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "intervention program" means the intensive mathematics and algebra intervention pilot program.

(b) The commissioner by rule shall establish an intervention pilot program in which a participating district will provide:

(1) intensive mathematics intervention for students who are not performing at grade level in mathematics in grades four through seven; and

(2) algebra readiness intervention for students who are not performing at grade level in mathematics in grade eight.

(c) Districts may implement the intensive mathematics and algebra intervention pilot program at a campus whose population of at-risk students exceeds the state average proportion of at-risk students.

(d) A participating campus shall identify a student who does not perform at grade level on an assessment instrument administered

1 under Section 39.023(a)(1), or an equivalent assessment instrument  
2 administered under Section 39.023(1), as a student eligible for  
3 participation in the intervention program. During a student's  
4 placement in the intervention program, a campus shall use progress  
5 monitoring assessments to ensure that a student is making  
6 appropriate progress in the program.

7 (e) The commissioner shall adopt a list of mathematics and  
8 algebra intervention programs that may be implemented by a school  
9 district and funded under this program. Programs placed on the  
10 commissioner's list will be reviewed and recommended by a panel of  
11 recognized experts in mathematics education.

12 (f) The commissioner shall adopt minimum criteria that a  
13 program must meet to be included on the list adopted by the  
14 commissioner. The criteria must:

15 (1) include comprehensive course plans and teacher  
16 guides that are organized around the essential knowledge and skills  
17 curriculum for mathematics;

18 (2) include technology-based supplementary  
19 instruction that can diagnose and address areas in which a student  
20 is identified to need improvement;

21 (3) include at least three cumulative days of  
22 training, professional development, and mentoring for teachers;

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

26 (5) provide teachers daily access to required  
27 technology;

1           (6) demonstrate significant effectiveness in schools  
2 serving students identified as being at risk of dropping out of  
3 school, as described by Section 29.081(d); and

4           (7) be selected in consultation with the teachers at  
5 the affected campus from the list adopted pursuant to Subsection  
6 (e).

7           (g) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to  
8 implement this section.

9           (h) Program Evaluation. The commissioner of education  
10 shall contract for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the  
11 intervention program established under this section. The  
12 commissioner may consider centers for education research to conduct  
13 this evaluation. The evaluation shall describe progress under the  
14 assessment instruments administered under Section 39.023(a)(1) or  
15 equivalent assessment instruments administered under Section  
16 39.023(1) to students participating in the intervention program.

17           (i) Report to the Legislature. Not later than December 1 of  
18 each even-numbered year, the commissioner shall prepare and deliver  
19 a report to the legislature that recommends any statutory changes  
20 the commissioner considers appropriate to promote improved  
21 mathematics and algebra readiness in Texas schools.

22           SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008  
23 school year.

24           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.