

AN ACT

relating to a pilot project in certain school districts for dual language education in English and another language.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 28.0052, 28.0053, and 28.0054 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0052. DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION PILOT PROJECT.

(a) The commissioner shall establish a pilot project in school districts selected by the commissioner under which the agency examines dual language education programs and the effect of those programs on a student's ability to graduate from high school.

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

(1) select districts that will commit to operate a dual language education program for at least three years; and

(2) give preference to a district that:

(A) demonstrates the potential:

(i) for expanding the program through middle school and high school; and

(ii) to offer at least one language program in addition to the language other than English used in the pilot program;

(B) will implement the program at the

1 kindergarten level; and

2 (C) demonstrates parent, teacher, and community
3 support for the program.

4 (c) The commissioner may select not more than 10 school
5 districts and not more than 30 campuses to operate a dual language
6 education program under this section.

7 (d) The commissioner by rule shall, except as provided by
8 Subsection (e), require a district to limit activities of the dual
9 language education program during the first year of the program to
10 planning activities, including:

11 (1) hiring and training teachers and ensuring teacher
12 certification;

13 (2) establishing parental and community support for
14 the program; and

15 (3) acquiring adequate learning materials in both
16 program languages.

17 (e) A program that applies for the expansion or improvement
18 of an existing dual language education program is eligible for
19 funding under the pilot project only to the extent authorized by the
20 commissioner in compliance with Subsection (c). An existing dual
21 language education program is not subject to the limitations on
22 activities imposed under Subsection (d).

23 (f) Funding provided for a dual language education program
24 may be used by a district for classroom materials.

25 (g) The agency shall report to the legislature describing
26 the agency's activities under the pilot project, the effect of the
27 project on grade-level completion and high school graduation rates,

1 and the recommendations arising from the project. The agency shall
2 submit an interim report under this subsection not later than
3 January 1, 2011, and a final report not later than January 1, 2013.

4 (h) This section expires August 1, 2013.

5 Sec. 28.0053. DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION PILOT PROJECT:
6 COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE PROGRESS TEAM. (a) Each school
7 district or campus participating in the dual language education
8 pilot project under Section 28.0052 shall establish a community
9 educational pipeline progress team to assist in developing and
10 implementing the dual language education pilot project.

11 (b) The board of trustees of a participating school district
12 or of a school district in which a participating campus is located
13 shall appoint individuals to the team. The team must include
14 educators, district-level administrators, and parents of students
15 who attend a participating campus. The team may include community
16 leaders and any other persons identified by the board of trustees as
17 having research-based knowledge regarding second-language
18 learning.

19 (c) The team shall develop an academic improvement plan that
20 describes the manner in which the pilot project should be
21 implemented in the participating school district or campus. In
22 developing the academic improvement plan, the team shall consider:

23 (1) the educational problems in the district or at the
24 campus that could be mitigated through the implementation of the
25 pilot project; and

26 (2) the technological and nontechnological resources
27 that are necessary to ensure successful implementation of the pilot

1 project.

2 (d) The team shall recommend to the board of trustees the
3 manner in which the pilot project funds should be used to implement
4 the academic improvement plan developed under Subsection (c).
5 Annually, the team may recommend to the board any necessary changes
6 in the academic improvement plan. The agency must approve the
7 academic improvement plan or any changes to the plan before
8 disbursing pilot project funds to the board.

9 (e) The board of trustees of each district participating in
10 the pilot project shall provide an annual progress report to the
11 agency not later than August 1 of each year that the district or
12 campus is participating in the pilot project. The report must state
13 in detail the type of plan used in the district or at the campus and
14 the effect of the pilot project on the district or campus,
15 including:

16 (1) any effect on the academic progress of students
17 who are participating in a pilot project, as measured by
18 performance on assessment instruments, including assessment
19 instruments administered under Section 39.023;

20 (2) if applicable, a comparison of student progress at
21 a campus or in a classroom in a school district or campus that is
22 participating in the pilot project as compared to student progress
23 at a campus or in a classroom in that same district or campus that is
24 not participating in the pilot project;

25 (3) any effect on student attendance or dropout rates;

26 (4) any effect on student enrollment in high school;

27 (5) any effect on teacher performance or retention;

1 (6) any improvement in communications among students,
2 parents, teachers, and administrators;

3 (7) any improvement in parental involvement in the
4 education of the parent's child;

5 (8) any effect on community involvement and support
6 for the district or campus; and

7 (9) any increase in student proficiency in technology
8 that would help prepare students for becoming members of the
9 workforce.

10 (f) This section expires August 1, 2013.

11 Sec. 28.0054. CONTRACT FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING SOFTWARE. (a)
12 To expand language learning opportunities for all public school
13 students and school district or campus employees, including
14 students and employees in school districts or campuses not
15 participating in the dual language education pilot project
16 established under Section 28.0052, the commissioner shall enter
17 into a contract to license language learning software using
18 language immersion methods.

19 (b) Expenditures under this section must be sufficient to
20 support language learning opportunities for a maximum of one
21 million public school students and employees for a maximum of three
22 years. The commissioner shall make the software available online
23 to public school students and employees across the state not later
24 than January 1, 2008. A campus participating in the pilot project
25 established under Section 28.0052 may have access to the software.

26 (c) The commissioner may not spend more than \$4 million each
27 year to comply with this section.

1 (d) A school district may not use the language learning
2 software to supplant a bilingual education, English as a second
3 language, or dual language education program.

4 (e) Not later than January 1, 2013, the commissioner shall
5 report to the legislature on the utilization and effectiveness of
6 the language learning software.

7 (f) This section expires August 1, 2013.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2814 was passed by the House on April 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 116, Nays 22, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2814 on May 25, 2007, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2814 on May 27, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 106, Nays 34, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 2814

I certify that H.B. No. 2814 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 2; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2814 on May 27, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 2.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor