

By: Phillips

H.B. No. 3087

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of applied mathematics and science courses for use in public high schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.015 to read as follows:

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

(b) The vertical teams shall develop and recommend to the State Board of Education for adoption under Section 28.002 the essential knowledge and skills of a course in applied mathematics and a course in applied science for use in public high schools. A course developed under this section must be designed to prepare students for success in college courses and in advanced technical occupations.

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

1 28.025.

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

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

25 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt instructional
26 materials for a course developed under this section in accordance
27 with Chapter 31. The instructional materials must include

1 technology resources that enhance the effectiveness of the course
2 and draw on established best practices.

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

14 SECTION 2. Sections 28.025(a), (b), (e), and (g), Education
15 Code, are amended to read as follows:

16 (a) The State Board of Education by rule shall determine
17 curriculum requirements for the standard [~~minimum~~], recommended,
18 and advanced high school programs that are consistent with the
19 required curriculum under Section 28.002.

20 (b) A school district shall ensure that each student enrolls
21 in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements
22 identified by the State Board of Education under Subsection (a) for
23 the recommended or advanced high school program unless the student,
24 the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation
25 to the student, and a school counselor or school administrator
26 agree that the student should be permitted to take courses under the
27 standard [~~minimum~~] high school program.

1 (e) Each school district shall report the academic
2 achievement record of students who have completed a standard
3 [~~minimum~~], recommended, or advanced high school program on
4 transcript forms adopted by the State Board of Education. The
5 transcript forms adopted by the board must be designed to clearly
6 differentiate between each of the high school programs and identify
7 whether a student received a diploma or a certificate of coursework
8 completion.

9 (g) If a student, other than a student permitted to take
10 courses under the standard [~~minimum~~] high school program as
11 provided by Subsection (b), is unable to complete the recommended
12 or advanced high school program solely because necessary courses
13 were unavailable to the student at the appropriate times in the
14 student's high school career as a result of course scheduling, lack
15 of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the student's
16 control, the school district shall indicate that fact on the
17 student's transcript form described by Subsection (e).

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.