

By: Branch (Senate Sponsor - Shapiro) H.B. No. 3259  
(In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2007;  
May 10, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on  
Education; May 15, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:  
Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 15, 2007, sent to printer.)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

relating to the administration of international assessment  
instruments to certain public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is  
amended by adding Section 39.037 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.037. INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT PROGRAM.

(a) In this section, "program" means the international assessment  
instrument program.

(b) The commissioner shall establish a program under which  
a participating school district administers international  
assessment instruments to students in the district.

(c) A school district may apply to the commissioner to  
participate in the program. The commissioner shall select for  
participation school districts from both rural and urban areas of  
the state. If necessary, the commissioner may require a school  
district to participate in the program.

(d) A participating school district shall administer  
international assessment instruments as required by the  
commissioner.

(e) In administering the program, the commissioner shall:

(1) compare the performance on the international  
assessment instruments of students in this state with students of  
the same grade level in other countries;

(2) compare the international assessment instruments  
with state assessment instruments and state educational goals; and

(3) provide professional development for educators in  
the interpretation and use of results of the international  
assessment instruments.

(f) Each biennium the commissioner may use funds  
appropriated for the Foundation School Program to provide funding  
for the program in an amount not to exceed \$2 million.

(g) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the  
commissioner shall prepare and deliver a report describing the  
results of student performance on the international assessment  
instruments to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker  
of the house of representatives, each member of the legislature,  
and each school district.

(h) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to  
administer this section.

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

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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