

By: West, Royce

S.B. No. 1515

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state grants for student clubs in high schools that serve students at risk of dropping out of school.

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. GRANTS FOR STUDENT CLUBS. (a) In this section, "students at risk of dropping out of school" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.081(d).

(b) The commissioner shall administer a pilot program to provide grants to school districts to fund student club activities for students at risk of dropping out of school. From funds appropriated for purposes of this subchapter, the commissioner shall spend an amount not to exceed \$5 million in any state fiscal biennium on the program.

(c) The commissioner may award a grant in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 in a school year to a school district on behalf of a student club at a district high school campus at which at least 60 percent of students are identified as students at risk of dropping out of school. To be eligible for a grant, the student club and the club's sponsor must be sanctioned by the campus and district. A grant awarded under this program must be matched by other state, federal, or local funds, including donations, in an amount equal to the amount of the grant. A district shall seek donations or

1 sponsorships from local businesses or community organizations to  
2 raise the matching funds. The commissioner may award a grant on  
3 behalf of more than one student club at a campus in the same  
4 academic year.

5 (d) The commissioner shall establish application criteria  
6 for receipt of a grant under this section. The criteria must require  
7 an applicant for a grant to provide:

8 (1) a description of the student club;

9 (2) a statement of the student club's goals, intent,  
10 and activities;

11 (3) a statement of the source of funds to be used to  
12 match the grant;

13 (4) a budget for the student club;

14 (5) a statement showing that the student club's  
15 finances are sustainable; and

16 (6) any other information the commissioner requires.

17 (e) The commissioner shall establish a grant agreement to be  
18 signed by the sponsor of a student club receiving a grant and  
19 another authorized school district officer. The agreement must  
20 require the district and the student club to participate in an  
21 evaluation, as determined by the commissioner, of the club's  
22 program and the program's effect on student achievement and dropout  
23 rates.

24 (f) A student club may use funds awarded under this section  
25 to support academic or co-curricular club activities, other than  
26 athletics, in which at least 50 percent of the participating  
27 students have been identified as students at risk of dropping out of

1 school. A student club may use funds for materials, sponsor  
2 stipends, and other needs that directly support the club's  
3 activities. A student club must use the entire amount of the grant  
4 to directly fund the club's activities described in the  
5 application. A student club may not use more than 50 percent of a  
6 grant to pay sponsor stipends.

7 (g) At the end of the school year, a student club that  
8 receives a grant must submit a report to the board of trustees of  
9 the school district summarizing the club's activities and the  
10 extent to which the club met the club's goals and achieved the  
11 club's intent.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.