

By: Madden

H.B. No. 552

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of competitive grants to fund programs for certain public school students assigned to disciplinary alternative education programs or in-school suspension.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.0083 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.0083. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE DISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS. (a) In this section, "student at risk of dropping out of school" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.081(d).

(b) Using funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall award grants to school districts to conduct youth violence prevention, drug abuse prevention, or delinquency prevention programs for students at risk of dropping out of school assigned to a disciplinary alternative education program or an in-school suspension setting.

(c) A school district shall use a grant awarded under this section to develop a case management system for students at risk of dropping out of school assigned to a disciplinary alternative education program or an in-school suspension setting in grades 6 through 12. A district may not reduce funding for an existing program supporting students in disciplinary alternative education programs or in-school suspension settings by use of funds awarded

1 under this section.

2 (d) A school district may contract with a private provider,
3 another public school, or a regional education service center for
4 services to implement a grant awarded under this section. As
5 required by the commissioner, a school district awarded a grant
6 under this section must agree to obtain technical assistance and
7 participate in training and evaluations.

8 (e) A school district awarded a grant under this section
9 shall implement programs that:

10 (1) target students who demonstrate abusive conduct
11 and behaviors, including assault, abuse, aggression,
12 insubordination, bullying, sexual harassment, intimidation of
13 others, destruction of school property, sale or possession of
14 dangerous drugs, and possession of weapons;

15 (2) provide services to students selected by campus
16 principals for behavioral intervention;

17 (3) utilize documented violence prevention, drug
18 abuse prevention, or delinquency prevention programs, including
19 group skills training, individual behavioral counseling, and
20 community service learning projects;

21 (4) use a case management system for a 12-month period
22 with each student to ensure a successful transition to the regular
23 education program; and

24 (5) work closely with a student's parent, guardian, or
25 other person standing in parental relation to the student or having
26 control of the student under a court order.

27 (f) The commissioner shall provide for a grant application,

1 review, and award process on a competitive basis and may use one or
2 more regional education service centers for that purpose and for
3 training and technical assistance. A regional education service
4 center participating in a grant proposal with a school district may
5 not participate in activities under this subsection.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.