

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 2538

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the career and technology education program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 7.009, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7.009. BEST PRACTICES; CLEARINGHOUSE. (a) In coordination with the Legislative Budget Board, the agency shall establish an online clearinghouse of information relating to best practices of campuses, ~~and~~ school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools. In addition to information required under Subsection (e), the agency shall determine the appropriate topic categories for which a campus, district, or charter school may submit best ~~[regarding instruction, dropout prevention, public school finance, resource allocation, and business]~~ practices. To the extent practicable, the agency shall ensure that information provided through the online clearinghouse is specific, actionable information relating to the best practices of high-performing and highly efficient campuses, ~~and school~~ districts, and open-enrollment charter schools and of academically acceptable campuses, districts, and open-enrollment charter schools that have demonstrated significant improvement in student achievement rather than general guidelines relating to campus, ~~and school~~ district, and open-enrollment charter school operation. The information must be accessible by campuses, school districts, open-enrollment

1 charter schools, and interested members of the public.

2 (b) The agency shall solicit and collect from the
3 Legislative Budget Board, centers for education research
4 established under Section 1.005, and [~~exemplary or recognized~~]
5 school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools[~~7~~
6 ~~as rated under Section 39.072,~~] examples of best practices as
7 determined by the agency under Subsection (a) and as required under
8 Subsection (e) [~~relating to instruction, dropout prevention,~~
9 ~~public school finance, resource allocation, and business~~
10 ~~practices, including best practices relating to curriculum, scope~~
11 ~~and sequence, compensation and incentive systems, bilingual~~
12 ~~education and special language programs, compensatory education~~
13 ~~programs, and the effective use of instructional technology,~~
14 ~~including online courses~~].

15 (c) The agency shall contract for the services of one or
16 more third-party contractors to develop, implement, and maintain a
17 system of collecting and evaluating the best practices of campuses,
18 [~~and~~] school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools as
19 provided by this section. In addition to any other considerations
20 required by law, the agency must consider an applicant's
21 demonstrated competence and qualifications in analyzing campus,
22 [~~and~~] school district, and open-enrollment charter school
23 practices in awarding a contract under this subsection.

24 (d) The commissioner may purchase from available funds
25 curriculum and other instructional tools identified under this
26 section to provide for use by school districts and open-enrollment
27 charter schools.

1 (e) The clearinghouse shall collect and provide information
2 relating to best practices in career and technology education,
3 including:

4 (1) model programs that connect kindergarten through
5 grade 12 to postsecondary employment or higher education in a
6 seamless system that includes the use of quality internship
7 programs;

8 (2) courses that teach the required curriculum under
9 Section 28.002 in a manner that may be applied to employment skills;

10 (3) models of course scheduling that allow students to
11 participate in a coherent sequence of career and technology courses
12 while meeting the requirement adopted under Section 28.025 that
13 students complete four courses in each subject of the foundation
14 curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1);

15 (4) counseling that:

16 (A) assists students in identifying high-demand,
17 high-wage occupations appropriate for the student;

18 (B) diagnoses the current skills of students and
19 determines the skills needed for those high-demand, high-wage
20 occupations;

21 (C) assists students in planning courses and
22 schedules to acquire needed skills; and

23 (D) connects students to employment
24 opportunities and to institutions of higher education; and

25 (5) the integration and use of Internet courses into
26 the career and technology education course sequences.

27 (f) This subsection expires January 31, 2011. Not later

1 than January 1, 2011, the agency shall report to the chair of each
2 standing committee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction
3 over public education recommendations regarding how to use the
4 clearinghouse established under this section as a dynamic technical
5 assistance and support tool. The recommendations must include
6 recommendations regarding:

7 (1) using the clearinghouse to provide classroom
8 teachers, school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools
9 with statewide access to high-quality curricula;

10 (2) consolidating similar state Internet web portals
11 into a central framework; and

12 (3) providing students access to Internet-based
13 academic and career counseling that includes cooperation among the
14 relevant state agencies for the purpose of transitioning students,
15 including students enrolled in a special education program under
16 Subchapter A, Chapter 29, from kindergarten through grade 12 to
17 postsecondary employment or higher education.

18 SECTION 2. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by
19 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

20 (d) Each time the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
21 revises the Internet database of the coordinating board's official
22 statewide inventory of workforce education courses, the State Board
23 of Education shall by rule revise the essential knowledge and
24 skills of any corresponding career and technology education
25 curriculum as provided by Subsection (c).

26 SECTION 3. Section 29.182(b), Education Code, is amended to
27 read as follows:

1 (b) The state plan must include procedures designed to
2 ensure that:

3 (1) all secondary and postsecondary students have the
4 opportunity to participate in career and technology education
5 programs;

6 (2) the state complies with requirements for
7 supplemental federal career and technology education funding; and

8 (3) career and technology education is established as
9 a part of the total education system of this state and constitutes
10 an option for student learning that provides a rigorous course of
11 study consistent with the required curriculum under Section 28.002
12 and under which a student may receive specific education in a career
13 and technology program that:

14 (A) incorporated competencies leading to
15 academic and technical skill attainment;

16 (B) leads to:

17 (i) an industry-recognized license,
18 credential, or certificate; or

19 (ii) at the postsecondary level, an
20 associate or baccalaureate degree; and

21 (C) includes opportunities for students to earn
22 college credit for coursework.

23 SECTION 4. Section 29.183, Education Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 29.183. CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL
26 PROGRAMS. (a) The board of trustees of a school district:

27 (1) shall provide [~~may conduct and supervise~~] career

1 and technology classes and other educational programs for students
2 that offer a selection of courses that:

3 (A) constitute a coherent sequence, as approved
4 by the commissioner, in at least three nationally recognized
5 occupational clusters; and

6 (B) prepare students to succeed in skilled
7 on-the-job training and postsecondary education;

8 (2) may conduct and supervise career and technology
9 classes and other educational programs for students or ~~and~~ for
10 other persons of all ages; and

11 (3) may spend local maintenance funds for the cost of
12 ~~these~~ classes and programs described by Subdivision (1) or (2).

13 (b) In developing a career and technology program, the board
14 of trustees must ~~shall~~ consider the state plan for career and
15 technology education required under Section 29.182.

16 SECTION 5. Section 29.184(a), Education Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (a) The board of trustees of a school district shall, to the
19 extent possible, ~~may~~ contract ~~[with another school district or]~~
20 with a public or private postsecondary educational institution or
21 trade or technical school that is regulated by this state, as
22 designated in the state plan for career and technology education
23 required under Section 29.182, to provide career and technology
24 classes for students in the district as dual credit courses or
25 otherwise as courses for credit in the manner established under an
26 articulation agreement, including an agreement leading to advanced
27 technical credit as determined by the Texas Higher Education

1 Coordinating Board. In addition, the board of trustees may
2 contract with another school district to provide career and
3 technology classes for students in the district and may enroll
4 students in career and technology courses offered through the state
5 virtual school network under Section 30A.1042.

6 SECTION 6. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 29.186 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 29.186. HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS LIST. (a) The Texas
9 Workforce Commission shall develop, in consultation with the Texas
10 Workforce Investment Council, a list of high-demand, high-wage,
11 high-skill occupations in this state that have industry
12 certifications. The Texas Workforce Commission shall provide the
13 research and technical support for developing the list under this
14 subsection.

15 (b) The Texas Workforce Investment Council shall consider
16 the list developed under Subsection (a) and approve a list for
17 submission to the commissioner. On approval of the list, the Texas
18 Workforce Investment Council shall deliver the list to the
19 commissioner.

20 (c) The commissioner of education, after consultation with
21 the commissioner of higher education, shall consider the list
22 delivered under Subsection (b) and approve a final list of
23 high-demand, high-wage, high-skill occupations in this state that
24 have industry certifications.

25 (d) The list of high-demand, high-wage, high-skill
26 occupations in this state that have industry certifications shall
27 be reviewed and approved under the process provided by this section

1 every four years.

2 SECTION 7. Section 29.187(a), Education Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (a) In addition to the authority granted under Section
5 29.183, the board of trustees of a school district may develop and
6 offer a program [~~that provides a rigorous course of study~~
7 ~~consistent with the required curriculum under Section 28.002 and~~
8 under which a student may[+]

9 [(1) ~~receive specific education in a career and~~
10 ~~technology profession that:~~

11 [(A) ~~leads to postsecondary education; or~~

12 [(B) ~~meets or exceeds business or industry~~
13 ~~standards; and~~

14 [(2)] obtain from the district an award for
15 distinguished achievement in career and technology education and a
16 stamp or other notation on the student's transcript that indicates
17 receipt of the award.

18 SECTION 8. Subchapter C, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is
19 amended by adding Section 30A.1042 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 30A.1042. CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES. A school
21 district, public or private postsecondary educational institution,
22 trade or technical school that is regulated by this state, or
23 industry-recognized educational entity approved by the
24 commissioner and regulated by this state may seek approval to offer
25 through the state virtual school network career and technology
26 courses that comply with the requirements of the state plan for
27 career and technology education developed under Section 29.182.

1 SECTION 9. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Education Code, is
2 amended by adding Section 33.008 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 33.008. COUNSELING REGARDING CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY
4 EDUCATION. (a) Each counselor at a middle or junior high school,
5 including an open-enrollment charter school offering those grades,
6 shall advise students and their parents or guardians regarding the
7 purposes of and available options for career and technology
8 education as part of any information provided to a student for
9 purposes of establishing a personal graduation plan.

10 (b) During the first school year a student is enrolled in a
11 high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment
12 charter school, a counselor shall provide information about career
13 and technology education to the student and the student's parent or
14 guardian as part of any information provided to a student for
15 purposes of establishing a personal graduation plan. The career
16 and technology information provided must include information
17 regarding:

- 18 (1) available course and career options;
19 (2) certification and licensing requirements; and
20 (3) the availability of college credit.

21 SECTION 10. Section 42.154, Education Code, is amended by
22 amending Subsection (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read
23 as follows:

24 (a) For each full-time equivalent student in average daily
25 attendance in an approved career and technology education program
26 in grades nine through 12 or in career and technology education
27 programs for students with disabilities in grades seven through 12,

1 a district is entitled to:

2 (1) an annual allotment equal to the adjusted basic
3 allotment multiplied by a weight of 1.35; and

4 (2) \$50, if the student is enrolled in:

5 (A) two or more advanced career and technology
6 education classes for a total of three or more credits; or

7 (B) an advanced course as part of a tech-prep
8 program under Subchapter T, Chapter 61.

9 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (c-1), funds [~~Funds~~]
10 allocated under this section, other than an indirect cost allotment
11 established under State Board of Education rule, may [~~must~~] be used
12 only to provide [~~in providing~~] career and technology education
13 programs in grades nine through 12 or career and technology
14 education programs for students with disabilities in grades seven
15 through 12 under Sections 29.182, 29.183, and 29.184 that are
16 approved by the commissioner and include courses that:

17 (1) constitute a coherent sequence, as approved by the
18 commissioner, in at least three nationally recognized occupational
19 clusters;

20 (2) are designed to prepare students to succeed in
21 skilled on-the-job training and postsecondary education or
22 employment; and

23 (3) lead to the acquisition of:

24 (A) an industry-recognized license, credential,
25 or certificate; or

26 (B) college credit.

27 (c-1) Because career and technical student organizations

1 are an integral part of a career and technology education program,
2 funds allocated under this section may also be used to provide
3 funding to students and teachers for participation in activities
4 related to career and technical student organizations that are
5 supported by the agency and the State Board of Education.

6 SECTION 11. Section 51.805, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

8 (f) This section does not apply to a general academic
9 teaching institution for the purpose of admitting an applicant as
10 an undergraduate student who:

11 (1) was enrolled in a career and technology education
12 program and successfully completed that program to graduate from
13 high school; and

14 (2) the institution determines meets the academic
15 standards for the program in which the student desires to enroll.

16 SECTION 12. Section 61.0762, Education Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 61.0762. PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS. (a) To
19 implement the college readiness and success strategic action plan
20 adopted under Section 61.0761 and to enhance the success of
21 students at institutions of higher education, the board by rule
22 shall develop:

23 (1) summer higher education bridge programs in the
24 subject areas of mathematics, science, and English language arts;

25 (2) incentive programs for institutions of higher
26 education that implement research-based, innovative developmental
27 education initiatives;

1 (3) financial assistance programs for educationally
2 disadvantaged students, as defined by Section 5.001, who take
3 college entrance and college readiness assessment instruments;

4 (4) professional development programs for faculty of
5 institutions of higher education on college readiness standards and
6 the implications of such standards on instruction; and

7 (5) other programs as determined by the board that
8 support the participation and success goals in "Closing the Gaps,"
9 the state's master plan for higher education.

10 (b) A program developed under this section to provide
11 education resource centers designed to motivate and assist students
12 and their families and provide information about enrolling in
13 college must also provide information about career and technology
14 education. The career and technology information provided must
15 include information regarding:

16 (1) available course and career options;

17 (2) certification and licensing requirements; and

18 (3) available degree programs.

19 SECTION 13. This Act applies beginning with the 2011-2012
20 school year.

21 SECTION 14. This Act takes effect immediately if it
22 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
23 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
24 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
25 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.