

By: Anchia

H.B. No. 3050

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot project to assess public school students by alternative methods.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.0237 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0237. ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT METHODS PILOT PROJECT. (a) In this section, "alternative assessment" means a method of assessment in which a student is required to solve a problem or demonstrate a skill but is not required to answer questions from a list of possible answers. The term includes assessment through short-answer questions, an essay, a performance, an oral presentation, a demonstration, an experiment, or an exhibition.

(b) The agency shall establish a pilot project to use alternative assessment as provided by this section in assessing the performance of students.

(c) The agency shall select six school districts to participate in the pilot project. The selected districts must include two school districts located in urban areas, two districts located in suburban areas, and two districts located in rural areas. The agency may not select to participate in the pilot project a district that has been rated as academically unacceptable during any of the five years preceding the initial year of the pilot

1 project. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter:

2 (1) the academic performance of students in the sixth,  
3 seventh, and eighth grade levels in the districts selected to  
4 participate in the pilot project shall be assessed in mathematics,  
5 science, reading, writing, and social studies using an alternative  
6 assessment method rather than any assessment instrument that would  
7 otherwise be required under Section 39.023; and

8 (2) the performance of each district selected to  
9 participate in the pilot project and of each campus in a  
10 participating district shall be measured based on student  
11 performance using an alternative assessment method rather than any  
12 assessment instrument that would otherwise be required under  
13 Section 39.023.

14 (d) Each alternative assessment shall be administered under  
15 this section to students near the end of each school year.

16 (e) The agency shall adopt rules as necessary to administer  
17 this section, including, notwithstanding any other provision of  
18 this chapter, rules for determining the level of performance  
19 considered to be satisfactory on the alternative assessments.

20 (f) The agency shall implement the pilot project beginning  
21 with the 2010-2011 school year. The agency may consult with an  
22 institution of higher education in implementing, administering, or  
23 evaluating the pilot project.

24 (g) Not later than December 1, 2012, the agency shall report  
25 to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of  
26 representatives, and presiding officer of the standing committee of  
27 each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over public

1 education concerning:

2 (1) based in part on assessment instrument results and  
3 other performance of fifth grade students before participating in  
4 the pilot project and of ninth grade students after participating  
5 in the project, any impact of alternative assessment under this  
6 section on:

7 (A) student academic performance;

8 (B) student performance on assessments;

9 (C) school attendance by or retention of  
10 students;

11 (D) curriculum enhancement; or

12 (E) teacher professional satisfaction; and

13 (2) any recommendation concerning retaining,  
14 modifying, or expanding the alternative assessment project under  
15 this section.

16 (h) This section expires September 1, 2013.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.