

By: Madden

H.B. No. 3229

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot project for a drug and alcohol abuse recovery high school program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.921 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.921. DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL PILOT PROJECT. (a) The agency shall develop a pilot project for the establishment and operation of one or more high school programs designed to assist students who have completed a drug or alcohol abuse treatment program in returning to school and earning a high school diploma.

(b) A high school program established and operated under this section must provide for:

(1) individualized instruction for students and a low ratio of students to teachers;

(2) provision of the courses, including dual credit courses, instruction, and assistance necessary for students to earn the credits required for high school graduation as required under Section 28.025;

(3) varied methods of instruction, including traditional classroom and textbook instruction, self-paced instruction, and distance learning;

(4) accelerated timelines for advancement between

1 courses;

2 (5) assistance with the transition from the treatment
3 program back to school, including counseling that meets the social
4 and emotional needs of students and help through peer support
5 groups;

6 (6) clear rules of behavior established under an
7 agreement signed by a program representative, the student, and the
8 student's parent that:

9 (A) provides expectations concerning attendance,
10 achievement, clothing, and Internet use;

11 (B) requires periodic testing for and prohibits
12 student drug and alcoholic beverage use; and

13 (C) prohibits smoking on campus;

14 (7) required participation in community service
15 projects; and

16 (8) establishment of goals by students and procedures
17 to measure students' accomplishment of those goals.

18 (c) A high school program established and operated under
19 this section must establish an application form and a procedure for
20 admission to the program that, among any other requirements,
21 requires an applicant for admission to:

22 (1) apply in writing in the time and manner required by
23 the program;

24 (2) interview in person with program representatives;

25 (3) submit an essay written while visiting the program
26 site;

27 (4) submit with the application:

1 (A) proof in the form required by the program
2 that the student has completed a drug or alcohol abuse treatment
3 program approved by the high school program;

4 (B) the student's transcript and other records
5 from each school the student has previously attended, including any
6 results from standardized or state-administered assessment
7 instruments, disciplinary records, and attendance reports; and

8 (C) written authorization for program
9 representatives to obtain specific confidential records of the
10 student; and

11 (5) be assessed by drug and alcohol counseling
12 professionals.

13 (d) As part of the pilot project, the agency shall develop:

14 (1) written information for students, parents,
15 educators, and drug and alcohol abuse treatment centers concerning
16 the program; and

17 (2) training for program personnel concerning drug and
18 alcohol abuse issues, including treatment for drug and alcohol
19 abuse.

20 (e) The commissioner may accept gifts, grants, and
21 donations for developing the pilot project and for a high school
22 program established and operated as part of the pilot project.

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