

By: Deshotel

H.B. No. 3449

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishment of a pilot program to provide financial
3 incentives to students in academically unacceptable public school
4 campuses.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 39, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 39.117 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 39.117. PILOT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
9 ACADEMICALLY UNACCEPTABLE CAMPUSES. (a) The commissioner shall
10 establish a pilot program under which ninth grade students in
11 selected campuses are provided financial incentives for
12 performance in certain academic classes.

13 (b) A campus is eligible to participate in the pilot program
14 if the campus:

15 (1) has been designated as academically unacceptable
16 under Section 39.072; and

17 (2) applies to the commissioner to participate in the
18 pilot program.

19 (c) The commissioner shall select campuses for
20 participation in the pilot program using a lottery system or
21 similar random selection process.

22 (d) At the end of each grading period, each student enrolled
23 at the ninth grade level at a selected campus is entitled to an
24 award based on the student's performance in each class in a subject

1 included in the foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1).

2 The amount of the student's award is determined as follows:

3 (1) \$50 for each grade of "A";

4 (2) \$35 for each grade of "B";

5 (3) \$20 for each grade of "C"; and

6 (4) \$0 for each grade of "D" or "F".

7 (e) A student whose performance qualifies for an award under
8 Subsection (d) shall receive a payment equal to half the amount of
9 the award on completion of the grading period. The remaining half
10 of the award shall be provided to the student in the form of savings
11 bonds on the student's graduation from high school.

12 (f) A student may earn an award during the ninth grade only.

13 (g) A school district must provide a student participating
14 in the pilot program with college and career counseling and
15 encouragement to prepare for college entrance exams.

16 (h) Each campus selected to participate in the pilot program
17 shall designate an employee to serve as project coordinator for the
18 campus.

19 (i) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary for the
20 administration of the pilot program.

21 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with students who
22 enter the ninth grade in the 2010-2011 school year.

23 SECTION 3. 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.