

By: Olivo

H.B. No. 3569

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to plans and procedures encouraging parental involvement
in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 26, Education Code, is amended by adding
Section 26.016 to read as follows:

Sec. 26.016. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN. (a) Each public
school district shall establish a parental involvement plan for
each district school that reflects the needs of students and their
families. Parents of children enrolled in the district shall be
consulted as the district develops the plan.

(b) The parental involvement plan for a school shall:

(1) involve parents of students at all grade levels in
a variety of roles;

(2) be comprehensive and coordinated; and

(3) recognize that communication between a student's
home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful.

(c) A school shall encourage communication with parents by
preparing and distributing age- and grade-appropriate family kits
describing:

(1) the school's parental involvement plan;

(2) the recommended role of the parent, student,
teacher, and school;

(3) ways for parents to become involved in school and

1 in their childrens' education;

2 (4) activities planned throughout the school year to
3 encourage parental involvement; and

4 (5) a system to allow the parent to communicate with
5 teachers and the principal in a regular, two-way, and meaningful
6 manner.

7 (d) A school shall schedule at least two parent-teacher
8 conferences for each student during a school year.

9 (e) A school shall create a parent center to:

10 (1) welcome parents to the school and provide parental
11 support and assistance;

12 (2) provide access to community resources to
13 strengthen school programs, family practices, and student
14 learning;

15 (3) provide parents access to teachers and key school
16 personnel; and

17 (4) provide students and parents with a space to build
18 relationships with other students, parents, teachers, and school
19 personnel.

20 (f) A school shall aid parents in assisting a student by
21 scheduling regular "Parents Make the Difference" evenings where
22 parents are given a report on the state of the school and an
23 overview of:

24 (1) the material students will learn;

25 (2) how students will be assessed;

26 (3) what parents should expect for their childrens'
27 education; and

1 (4) how parents can assist in their childrens'
2 education.

3 (g) A school may not adopt policies or procedures that
4 discourage a parent from visiting the school, including policies:

5 (1) requiring a parent to pick up a child outside the
6 school building;

7 (2) requiring a parent to present personal
8 identification to gain entrance to the school building; or

9 (3) prohibiting a parent from visiting a child's
10 classroom during school events.

11 (h) A school shall survey parents who want to volunteer in
12 school and determine:

13 (1) what types of volunteer work parents want to do;

14 (2) how frequently a volunteer wants to participate;

15 and

16 (3) options for parents who want to volunteer from
17 home.

18 (i) After completing the survey under Subsection (h), a
19 school shall publish a volunteer resource book and distribute the
20 book to school employees.

21 (j) A school shall encourage parents to participate in the
22 decisions that affect their children by:

23 (1) routinely publishing the school's procedure for
24 resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem,
25 who the parent should approach first, and how to develop solutions;

26 and

27 (2) sponsoring seminars to inform the parents of high

1 school students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting
2 course selection, career planning, and preparation for
3 post-secondary opportunities.

4 (k) A school shall take advantage of community resources by:

5 (1) contacting alumni from the school and creating an
6 alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for
7 school improvement;

8 (2) developing cards with tips for fostering a child's
9 success in school and recruiting local employers to include the
10 cards in employee paycheck envelopes; and

11 (3) engaging in partnership with institutions of
12 higher education located in the community.

13 (l) The principal of each school shall designate one
14 educator for every 300 students enrolled in the school to serve as a
15 parent facilitator to organize meaningful training for staff and
16 parents promoting parental involvement in the school and to promote
17 parental involvement as an asset to the school. An educator
18 designated as a parental facilitator is entitled to receive
19 supplemental pay for the assigned duties.

20 (m) The State Board for Educator Certification shall
21 require at least two hours each year of continuing education for
22 educators other than administrators designed to enhance
23 understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.

24 (n) The State Board for Educator Certification shall
25 require at least three hours each year of continuing education for
26 administrators to enhance understanding of effective parental
27 involvement strategies and the importance of administrative

1 leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive
2 to parental participation.

3 (o) Each school district shall review and update the
4 district's parental involvement plan each school year and file a
5 copy of the plan with the agency. The agency shall review each
6 parental involvement plan for compliance with this section. The
7 agency shall send written notification to a district whose plan is
8 not in compliance with Subsection (a) and shall allow the district
9 an opportunity to correct its plan.

10 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
11 of this Act, a school district shall adopt a parental involvement
12 plan as required by Section 26.016, Education Code, as added by this
13 Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.