

By: Olivo

H.B. No. 3574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a pilot program for certain students at risk of dropping out of school.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.0961 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.0961. DROPOUT PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner by rule shall establish a pilot program under which participating school districts implement a dropout prevention program for students in grade six.

(b) A school district may apply to the commissioner to participate in the pilot program. Subject to receipt of acceptable applications, the commissioner shall select school districts for participation in the pilot program. An application by a school district must describe the manner in which the pilot program will be implemented in the school district, including specific, measurable performance indicators through which the school district will demonstrate the effectiveness of the program in reducing dropout rates.

(c) A school district participating in the pilot program shall implement intervention models that include best practices for preventing students from dropping out of school as determined by the agency and by the best practices clearinghouse under Section 7.009. A district must provide students participating in the

1 program with academic mentoring.

2 (d) A school district participating in the pilot program  
3 shall provide an annual progress report to the agency not later than  
4 August 1 of each year the district is participating in the pilot  
5 program. The report must state in detail the type of intervention  
6 model used in the district and the effect of the pilot program on  
7 the district, including:

8 (1) any effect on the academic progress of students  
9 who are participating in a pilot program, as measured by  
10 performance on assessment instruments, including assessment  
11 instruments administered under Section 39.023;

12 (2) a comparison of student progress at a campus or in  
13 a classroom in the school district that is participating in the  
14 pilot program as compared to student progress at a campus or in a  
15 classroom in a district that is not participating in the pilot  
16 program;

17 (3) any effect on student attendance or dropout rates;  
18 and

19 (4) any effect on student enrollment in high school.

20 (e) A pilot program shall continue to monitor the  
21 educational career and success of a student enrolled in the pilot  
22 program for six years from the date the student enrolls in the  
23 program. If a student enrolled in the pilot program transfers to  
24 another school district in this state, the district to which the  
25 student transfers shall provide the district participating in the  
26 pilot program information to enable the district to monitor the  
27 student's progress. A pilot program must include research and the

1 district must conduct a relational study that evaluates the  
2 relationship between the measures implemented through the pilot  
3 program and dropout rates in the district.

4 (f) The agency shall provide technical assistance to a  
5 school district participating in the pilot program, including  
6 assisting the district in researching the effectiveness of the  
7 program.

8 (g) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to  
9 implement this section.

10 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010  
11 school year.

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