

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 3614

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to transition and employment services for public school students enrolled in special education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.011, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 29.011. TRANSITION PLANNING. (a) The commissioner shall by rule adopt procedures for compliance with federal requirements relating to transition services for students who are enrolled in special education programs under this subchapter. The procedures must:

(1) provide that transition planning begins for a student not later than when the student reaches 14 years of age; and

(2) specify the manner in which a student's admission, review, and dismissal committee must consider, and if appropriate, address the following issues in the student's individualized education program:

(A) [~~(1)~~] appropriate student involvement in the student's transition to life outside the public school system;

(B) [~~(2)~~] if the student is younger than 18 years of age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition;

(C) [~~(3)~~] if the student is at least 18 years of age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition,

1 if the parent is invited to participate by the student or the school
2 district in which the student is enrolled;

3 (D) [~~4~~] any postsecondary education options;

4 (E) [~~5~~] a functional vocational evaluation;

5 (F) [~~6~~] employment goals and objectives;

6 (G) [~~7~~] if the student is at least 18 years of
7 age, the availability of age-appropriate instructional
8 environments;

9 (H) [~~8~~] independent living goals and
10 objectives; and

11 (I) [~~9~~] appropriate circumstances for
12 referring a student or the student's parents to a governmental
13 agency for services.

14 (b) The commissioner shall require each school district or
15 shared services arrangement to designate an employee as the school
16 transition and employment services specialist to serve as the
17 district's or shared services arrangement's expert on transition
18 and employment services for students enrolled in special education
19 programs under this subchapter. An individual designated under
20 this subsection must meet minimum requirements established by the
21 commissioner.

22 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
23 amended by adding Sections 29.0111 and 29.0112 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 29.0111. TRANSITION INFORMATION. The agency shall
25 develop a Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System indicator
26 regarding the success of students enrolled in special education
27 programs in transitioning to life outside the public school system,

1 including secondary transitions and post-school outcomes.

2 Sec. 29.0112. TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT MANUAL. (a) The
3 agency shall develop a comprehensive transition and employment
4 manual for students enrolled in special education programs and
5 their parents to assist in the transition to life outside the public
6 school system. The manual must contain information specific to
7 this state regarding:

8 (1) transition services;

9 (2) employment and supported employment services;

10 (3) social security programs;

11 (4) community and long-term services and support;

12 (5) postsecondary educational programs and services;

13 (6) information sharing with health and human services

14 agencies and providers;

15 (7) guardianship and alternatives to guardianship;

16 (8) self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and

17 self-determination; and

18 (9) contact information for all relevant state

19 agencies.

20 (b) The agency must update the transition and employment
21 manual at least once every two years.

22 (c) The agency shall post the transition and employment
23 manual on the agency's website in a manner that permits the manual
24 to be easily identified and accessed.

25 (d) A school district shall:

26 (1) maintain a copy of the transition and employment

27 manual at each campus in the district; and

1 (2) provide one copy of the transition and employment
2 manual to each student enrolled in a special education program and
3 the student's parent at the first meeting of the student's
4 admission, review, and dismissal committee at which transition is
5 discussed or the first meeting that occurs after September 1, 2009,
6 if a student has already had an admission, review, and dismissal
7 committee meeting discussing transition.

8 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010
9 school year.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.