

By: Rose

H.B. No. 4150

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the collection and provision of information concerning
3 public school career and technology education programs.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 7.009, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 7.009. BEST PRACTICES; CLEARINGHOUSE. (a) In
8 coordination with the Legislative Budget Board, the agency shall
9 establish an online clearinghouse of information relating to best
10 practices of campuses, ~~[and]~~ school districts, and open-enrollment
11 charter schools. In addition to information required under
12 Subsection (e), the agency shall determine the appropriate topic
13 categories for which a campus, district, or charter school may
14 submit best ~~[regarding instruction, dropout prevention, public~~
15 ~~school finance, resource allocation, and business]~~ practices. To
16 the extent practicable, the agency shall ensure that information
17 provided through the online clearinghouse is specific, actionable
18 information relating to the best practices of high-performing and
19 highly efficient campuses, ~~[and school]~~ districts, and
20 open-enrollment charter schools and of academically acceptable
21 campuses, districts, and open-enrollment charter schools that have
22 demonstrated significant improvement in student achievement rather
23 than general guidelines relating to campus, ~~[and school]~~ district,
24 and open-enrollment charter school operation. The information must

1 be accessible by campuses, school districts, open-enrollment
2 charter schools, and interested members of the public.

3 (b) The agency shall solicit and collect from the
4 Legislative Budget Board, centers for education research
5 established under Section 1.005, and [~~exemplary or recognized~~]
6 school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools[~~7~~
7 ~~as rated under Section 39.072,~~] examples of best practices as
8 determined by the agency under Subsection (a) and as required under
9 Subsection (e) [~~relating to instruction, dropout prevention,~~
10 ~~public school finance, resource allocation, and business~~
11 ~~practices, including best practices relating to curriculum, scope~~
12 ~~and sequence, compensation and incentive systems, bilingual~~
13 ~~education and special language programs, compensatory education~~
14 ~~programs, and the effective use of instructional technology,~~
15 ~~including online courses~~].

16 (c) The agency shall contract for the services of one or
17 more third-party contractors to develop, implement, and maintain a
18 system of collecting and evaluating the best practices of campuses,
19 [~~and~~] school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools as
20 provided by this section. In addition to any other considerations
21 required by law, the agency must consider an applicant's
22 demonstrated competence and qualifications in analyzing campus,
23 [~~and~~] school district, and open-enrollment charter school
24 practices in awarding a contract under this subsection.

25 (d) The commissioner may purchase from available funds
26 curriculum and other instructional tools identified under this
27 section to provide for use by school districts and open-enrollment

1 charter schools.

2 (e) The clearinghouse shall collect and provide information
3 relating to best practices in career and technology education,
4 including:

5 (1) model programs that connect kindergarten through
6 grade 12 to postsecondary employment or higher education in a
7 seamless system that includes the use of quality internship
8 programs;

9 (2) courses that teach the required curriculum under
10 Section 28.002 in a manner that may be applied to employment skills;

11 (3) models of course scheduling that allow students to
12 participate in a coherent sequence of career and technology courses
13 while meeting the requirement adopted under Section 28.025 that
14 students complete four courses in each subject of the foundation
15 curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1);

16 (4) counseling that:

17 (A) assists students in identifying high-demand,
18 high-wage occupations appropriate for the student;

19 (B) diagnoses the current skills of students and
20 determines the skills needed for those high-demand, high-wage
21 occupations;

22 (C) assists students in planning courses and
23 schedules to acquire needed skills; and

24 (D) connects students to employment
25 opportunities and to institutions of higher education; and

26 (5) the integration and use of Internet courses into
27 the career and technology education course sequences.

1 (f) This subsection expires January 31, 2011. Not later
2 than January 1, 2011, the agency shall report to the chair of each
3 standing committee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction
4 over public education recommendations regarding how to use the
5 clearinghouse established under this section as a dynamic technical
6 assistance and support tool. The recommendations must include
7 recommendations regarding:

8 (1) using the clearinghouse to provide classroom
9 teachers, school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools
10 with statewide access to high-quality curricula;

11 (2) consolidating similar state Internet web portals
12 into a central framework; and

13 (3) providing students access to Internet-based
14 academic and career counseling that includes cooperation among the
15 relevant state agencies for the purpose of transitioning students,
16 including students enrolled in a special education program under
17 Subchapter A, Chapter 29, from kindergarten through grade 12 to
18 postsecondary employment or higher education.

19 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Education Code, is
20 amended by adding Section 33.008 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 33.008. COUNSELING REGARDING CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY
22 EDUCATION. (a) Each counselor at a middle or junior high school,
23 including an open-enrollment charter school offering those grades,
24 shall advise students and their parents or guardians regarding the
25 purposes of and available options for career and technology
26 education as part of any information provided to a student for
27 purposes of establishing a personal graduation plan.

1 (b) During the first school year a student is enrolled in a
2 high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment
3 charter school, a counselor shall provide information about career
4 and technology education to the student and the student's parent or
5 guardian as part of any information provided to a student for
6 purposes of establishing a personal graduation plan. The career
7 and technology information provided must include information
8 regarding:

9 (1) obtaining an aptitude or interest assessment;

10 (2) available course and career options, including
11 projected future demand for particular careers;

12 (3) certification and licensing requirements,
13 including skills needed and coursework required to meet those
14 requirements; and

15 (4) postsecondary education and training
16 opportunities.

17 SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
18 amended by adding Section 61.0663 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 61.0663. ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY. (a) To assess the
20 economic benefits and preparation for employment provided by public
21 institutions of higher education, the board shall identify students
22 enrolled in the public education system and collect data on which
23 postsecondary program, if any, the students enroll in and the type
24 of employment the students obtain following completion of high
25 school or the program, as applicable.

26 (b) The board, in consultation with the Texas Education
27 Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the comptroller, shall

1 use the education and employment data collected under Subsection
2 (a), and any additional relevant data, to assess the economic
3 impact of secondary and postsecondary training and education. The
4 information must be produced in a manner that:

5 (1) demonstrates patterns of postsecondary enrollment
6 and employment placement;

7 (2) provides an assessment of the economic benefits of
8 institutions of higher education and programs at those institutions
9 to students and the state; and

10 (3) provides an assessment of the economic benefit of
11 public education programs that prepare students who transition
12 directly to postsecondary employment.

13 (c) The information produced under this section must be
14 capable of electronic dissemination and made available to the
15 public in a format that assists students in making decisions
16 regarding education and career choices.

17 (d) This section does not authorize the disclosure of
18 student information that may not be disclosed under the Family
19 Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section
20 1232g). The board, in conjunction with the commissioner of
21 education, the comptroller, and the Texas Workforce Commission,
22 shall adopt rules to protect the confidentiality of student
23 information.

24 SECTION 4. Section 61.0762, Education Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 61.0762. PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS. (a) To
27 implement the college readiness and success strategic action plan

1 adopted under Section 61.0761 and to enhance the success of
2 students at institutions of higher education, the board by rule
3 shall develop:

4 (1) summer higher education bridge programs in the
5 subject areas of mathematics, science, and English language arts;

6 (2) incentive programs for institutions of higher
7 education that implement research-based, innovative developmental
8 education initiatives;

9 (3) financial assistance programs for educationally
10 disadvantaged students, as defined by Section 5.001, who take
11 college entrance and college readiness assessment instruments;

12 (4) professional development programs for faculty of
13 institutions of higher education on college readiness standards and
14 the implications of such standards on instruction; and

15 (5) other programs as determined by the board that
16 support the participation and success goals in "Closing the Gaps,"
17 the state's master plan for higher education.

18 (b) As one of the programs adopted under Subsection (a)(5),
19 the board shall establish education resource centers to create
20 within school communities interest in and information concerning
21 attendance at institutions of higher education. Each center must
22 attempt to coordinate among students, parents, school counselors,
23 and institutions of higher education in providing access to
24 resources helpful in preparation for attendance at and admission to
25 institutions of higher education. One or more persons associated
26 with each center shall be trained and able to assist the families of
27 high school students complete the Free Application for Federal

1 Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Each center shall provide information
2 concerning career and technical education, including certification
3 and licensing requirements and available course and career options
4 and degree programs. A center under this subsection may be located
5 on a high school or middle school campus or at a site within a
6 community that is conveniently located to many students, such as a
7 public library or local workforce or community center, or may be a
8 mobile center that visits schools or other places where students
9 are likely to gather.

10 (c) The board shall conduct ongoing evaluations of programs
11 developed under Subsection (a) and any other programs developed to
12 provide information concerning postsecondary educational or
13 employment opportunities to determine the effectiveness of the
14 programs in meeting the goals of "Closing the Gaps," the state's
15 master plan for higher education.

16 (d) In conjunction with the comptroller, the board shall
17 develop an Internet website for the purpose of providing
18 information to the public about postsecondary educational and
19 employment opportunities. The website shall provide information in
20 English and Spanish concerning:

21 (1) career and technical education programs that
22 integrate academic, technical, and career skills that lead to a
23 license, certificate, or postsecondary degree;

24 (2) available employment opportunities and the
25 educational requirements needed for employment at entry and
26 advanced levels;

27 (3) which occupations are considered high-demand, as

1 determined by the board in conjunction with the Texas Workforce
2 Commission;

3 (4) the skills needed and the available avenues for
4 obtaining employment in a high-demand occupation; and

5 (5) how to obtain financial aid and what forms of
6 financial aid are available to students entering certain
7 occupations.

8 (e) For the purpose of developing the Internet website under
9 Subsection (d), the board may require the Texas Education Agency to
10 provide information on educational programs and outcomes and the
11 Texas Workforce Commission to provide information on workforce
12 programs and outcomes.

13 (f) As one of the programs adopted under Subsection (a)(5),
14 the board, in conjunction with the comptroller and the Texas
15 Workforce Commission, shall establish mobile career centers that
16 visit schools or other places where students are likely to gather.
17 The mobile career centers shall provide students information on
18 various occupations including:

19 (1) the potential future employment demand for the
20 occupation;

21 (2) the earning potential for a person employed in the
22 occupation;

23 (3) the skills and training needed for employment in
24 the occupation;

25 (4) a list of courses applicable to the occupation,
26 including courses offered in high school, for dual credit, on the
27 Internet, and at institutions of higher education, and the extent

1 to which those courses are available to the student; and
2 (5) information concerning post entry-level
3 employment opportunities in the occupation and, to the extent
4 feasible, information concerning the education required to access
5 those future opportunities.

6 SECTION 5. Section 2 of this Act applies beginning with the
7 2009-2010 school year.

8 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.