

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 1438

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas has been nationally recognized for its
2 leadership in creating an exceptional student-tracking system; and

3 WHEREAS, Research has shed light on the state's low
4 graduation rate, however, and concerns have arisen about the
5 methodologies used for determining and computing dropout rates; and

6 WHEREAS, The future of Texas demands that we not only take
7 action to address the quality of our public schools, but also work
8 to ensure that our students are provided with a solid educational
9 foundation that makes them college- and career-ready; and

10 WHEREAS, Progress cannot be made until members of the Texas
11 Legislature, and all concerned Texans, know the exact magnitude of
12 the problem at hand; and

13 WHEREAS, True transparency in graduation and dropout rates is
14 of paramount importance in order to address the dropout problem and
15 to measure the effectiveness of our interventions; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby urge the Texas Education Agency to implement the
19 U.S. Department of Education's final regulations, 34 C.F.R. Section
20 200.19, which describes other academic indicators that may be used
21 to demonstrate adequate yearly progress; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That, under the regulations, the agency must (1)
23 include adoption of a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate
24 that compares the number of graduates to first-time ninth graders

1 four years prior, adjusting for transfers in, transfers out, and
2 students who have emigrated or died; (2) not remove students from
3 the cohort for the following reasons: systematic errors or
4 underreporting, expulsion, earned GED credentials, and unconfirmed
5 transfers in the case of withdrawals with the intent to attend
6 homeschooling, to enroll in another Texas public or private school,
7 or to enroll in an educational setting outside of Texas; and (3)
8 receive official written documentation for a student who has
9 transferred out so that the transfer can be verified through audits
10 or monitoring; documentation is limited to: records from the
11 receiving school, an approved application for homeschooling or
12 distance education, evidence of a transfer that is recorded in the
13 state's data system, or a letter from an official in the receiving
14 school acknowledging the student's enrollment; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk forward an official copy of
16 this resolution to the commissioner of education.