

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 2248

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to public school students placed in substitute care.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 25, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 25.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.007. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS IN SUBSTITUTE CARE. (a) The legislature finds that:

(1) students in substitute care are faced with numerous transitions during their formative years; and

(2) students in substitute care who move from one school to another are faced with special challenges to learning and future achievement.

(b) In recognition of the challenges faced by students in substitute care, the agency shall assist the transition of substitute care students from one school to another by:

(1) ensuring that school records for a student in substitute care are transferred to the student's new school not later than the 14th day after the date the student begins enrollment at the school;

(2) developing systems to ease transition of a student in substitute care during the first two weeks of enrollment at a new school;

(3) developing procedures for awarding credit for course work, including electives, completed by a student in

1 substitute care while enrolled at another school;

2 (4) promoting practices that facilitate access by a  
3 student in substitute care to extracurricular programs, summer  
4 programs, credit transfer services, electronic courses provided  
5 under Chapter 30A, and after-school tutoring programs at nominal or  
6 no cost;

7 (5) establishing procedures to lessen the adverse  
8 impact of the movement of a student in substitute care to a new  
9 school;

10 (6) entering into a memorandum of understanding with  
11 the Department of Family and Protective Services regarding the  
12 exchange of information as appropriate to facilitate the transition  
13 of students in substitute care from one school to another;

14 (7) encouraging school districts and open-enrollment  
15 charter schools to provide services for a student in substitute  
16 care in transition when applying for admission to postsecondary  
17 study and when seeking sources of funding for postsecondary study;

18 (8) requiring school districts, campuses, and  
19 open-enrollment charter schools to accept a referral for special  
20 education services made for a student in substitute care by a school  
21 previously attended by the student; and

22 (9) providing other assistance as identified by the  
23 agency.

24 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 30A.002, Education Code,  
25 is amended to read as follows:

26 (b) A student is eligible to enroll full-time in courses  
27 provided through the state virtual school network only if:

1           (1) the student was enrolled in a public school in this  
2 state in the preceding school year; [~~or~~]

3           (2) the student:

4                 (A) is a dependent of a member of the United  
5 States military;

6                 (B) was previously enrolled in high school in  
7 this state; and

8                 (C) does not reside in this state due to a  
9 military deployment or transfer; or

10           (3) the student has been placed in substitute care in  
11 this state, regardless of whether the student was enrolled in a  
12 public school in this state in the preceding school year.

13           SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010  
14 school year.

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