

By: Allen

H.B. No. 920

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to educational involvement agreements setting forth the  
3 respective responsibilities of students, parents, teachers, and  
4 principals in public schools.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 26, Education Code, is amended by adding  
7 Section 26.015 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 26.015. EDUCATIONAL INVOLVEMENT AGREEMENTS. (a) The  
9 agency shall adopt educational involvement agreement forms for  
10 optional use by school districts. The agreement forms must state  
11 the respective responsibilities of the student, parent, teacher,  
12 and principal.

13 (b) A school district that elects to use the educational  
14 involvement agreements may encourage students, students' parents,  
15 teachers, and principals to sign an educational involvement  
16 agreement.

17 (c) An educational involvement agreement must include:

18 (1) for an agreement signed by a parent, the parent's  
19 responsibilities regarding the student's education, which may  
20 include:

21 (A) reading to the student, if appropriate for  
22 the student's grade or reading level;

23 (B) reviewing and checking the student's  
24 homework; and

1                    (C) contributing at least five hours of the  
2 parent's time to the school each school year by:

3                    (i) attending school-related activities;  
4                    (ii) attending parent-teacher association  
5 meetings;

6                    (iii) attending \_\_\_\_\_ parent-teacher  
7 conferences;

8                    (iv) volunteering at the school; or

9                    (v) chaperoning school-sponsored events;

10                  (2) for an agreement signed by a student, the  
11 responsibility of the student to:

12                  (A) read each day before or after school, if  
13 appropriate for the student's grade or reading level;

14                  (B) use school equipment and property in a safe,  
15 appropriate manner;

16                  (C) follow the instructions of school staff;

17                  (D) complete and submit homework in a timely  
18 manner; and

19                  (E) act in a respectful manner; and

20                  (3) for an agreement signed by a teacher or principal,  
21 the responsibility of the teacher or principal to:

22                  (A) provide each student with proper  
23 instruction, supervision, and interaction;

24                  (B) maximize the educational and social  
25 experience of each student;

26                  (C) perform professional responsibilities in a  
27 manner that is in the best interest of each student;

1           (D) provide the parents of each student with  
2 timely progress reports; and

3           (E) be available to parents to discuss concerns.

4           (d) A school district may revise educational involvement  
5 agreement forms adopted by the agency to include information in  
6 addition to the information required under this section.

7           (e) The educational involvement agreement provided to a  
8 student's parent may be accompanied by:

9           (1) information regarding:

10           (A) the manner in which a parent may contact the  
11 student's teachers or principal, including a system to allow  
12 parents to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner  
13 with each of the student's teachers and the school principal;

14           (B) homework and grading policies;

15           (C) directions for locating resource material;

16           (D) methods for assisting the student with  
17 schoolwork at home;

18           (E) details on how reports of the student's  
19 progress will be sent to the parent and how a parent may request a  
20 progress report;

21           (F) school rules and policies;

22           (G) dress codes;

23           (H) the availability of assistance to a parent of  
24 limited English proficiency;

25           (I) information on free and reduced-price meals;

26           (J) opportunities for parents to become involved  
27 in the student's education or volunteer at the school, including

1 one-time opportunities and opportunities to volunteer from home;

2 (K) how to be involved in the decisions affecting  
3 course selection, career planning, and preparation for  
4 postsecondary opportunities;

5 (L) instructional programs available at the  
6 school campus;

7 (M) extracurricular programs available at the  
8 school campus; and

9 (N) activities planned through the school year to  
10 encourage parental involvement, including regularly scheduled open  
11 houses; and

12 (2) surveys to determine parent concerns about the  
13 school campus and to solicit parents' ideas for improving the  
14 school campus, including ways to foster a relationship between the  
15 parents, school, and local community.

16 (f) A school district may not punish a student, parent,  
17 teacher, or principal who does not sign an educational involvement  
18 agreement used by a district as provided by this section.

19 (g) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
20 implement this section.

21 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective  
22 date of this Act, the Texas Education Agency shall adopt  
23 educational involvement agreement forms for optional use by school  
24 districts as required by Section 26.015, Education Code, as added  
25 by this Act.

26 (b) Each school district may use educational involvement  
27 agreement forms in the manner required by Section 26.015, Education

1 Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2012-2013 school  
2 year.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.