

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 1307

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to alternative assessment of certain public school students under the public school accountability system.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.0221 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0221. ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The agency shall develop and implement an alternative assessment pilot program in accordance with this section.

(b) A school campus at which students are enrolled at the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade level is eligible to apply to participate in the program unless the campus has received an unacceptable performance rating during any of the three school years preceding the date of application.

(c) The commissioner shall select from the applicants not more than 20 school campuses to participate in the program. In making selections, the commissioner shall seek to select applicants that reflect the geographic and ethnic diversity of the public schools in this state.

(d) The agency shall establish and facilitate a process through which appropriate teachers from each participating school campus work collectively to develop common alternative assessment instruments to be administered to students enrolled at the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade level at each participating campus. The

alternative assessment instruments:

(1) must include components designed to assess whether students can apply the content they learn to new problems and situations, with a focus on inquiry and explanations of ideas;

(2) must address the use of:

(A) planning skills, such as generating ideas, gathering information, focusing research, and organizing information;

(B) processing skills, such as drawing inferences, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating; and

(C) critical and creative thinking processes, such as oral discourse, research, critical analysis, critical literacy, and metacognition;

(3) must be designed so that not more than 50 percent of the grade given to a student for performance on an assessment instrument is based on multiple choice questions; and

(4) may include any combination of examinations, quizzes, group or individual projects, laboratory work, portfolios, oral presentations, exhibitions, or other components.

(e) The agency shall provide appropriate training in developing, administering, and scoring the alternative assessment instruments to affected teachers at participating school campuses.

(f) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the participating school campuses shall administer the alternative assessment instruments to students enrolled at the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade level who would otherwise be required to be assessed

1 under Section 39.023 using assessment instruments adopted or
2 developed under that section. The campuses shall also score the
3 alternative assessment instruments. The alternative assessment
4 instruments must be administered according to a schedule adopted by
5 the commissioner, provided that the schedule permits components of
6 the alternative assessment instruments to be administered
7 throughout the school year.

8 (g) The agency shall audit the student's scores on the
9 alternative assessment instruments.

10 (h) To the extent feasible, student performance on the
11 alternative assessment instruments administered under this section
12 shall be considered for purposes of district and campus
13 accountability under this chapter in the same manner as student
14 performance on assessment instruments adopted or developed under
15 Section 39.023.

16 (i) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement
17 this section.

18 (j) Not later than December 1, 2015, the agency shall submit
19 a report regarding the program to the governor, lieutenant
20 governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and presiding
21 officer of the standing committee of each house of the legislature
22 with primary jurisdiction over public education. The report must:

23 (1) compare the performance, including performance on
24 assessment instruments and other measures of academic performance,
25 of students before participation in the program with the
26 performance of students after participation in the program;

27 (2) address the impact of the program on:

1 (A) academic performance;
2 (B) performance on assessment instruments;
3 (C) school attendance;
4 (D) student retention;
5 (E) curriculum enhancement; and
6 (F) teacher professional satisfaction; and
7 (3) include recommendations regarding retaining,
8 modifying, or expanding the program.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.