

By: Walle

H.B. No. 1740

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing information to parents regarding changes in state law affecting public school students.

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

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

Sec. 26.015. PARENT INFORMATION REGARDING CHANGES IN STATE LAW. (a) As soon as practicable after a legislative session, the agency shall prepare a document to inform parents of significant changes in state law, including additions to law, made during that legislative session that affect public school students. The document must also include, to the greatest extent practicable, information concerning any administrative rule adopted in association with a change in law and provide information that is as specific as practicable regarding dates on which state-administered assessment instruments will be administered during the school year during which the document will, in accordance with Subsection (e), be distributed. The document may also include information concerning significant changes in law affecting public school students made during the legislative session preceding the session concerning which information is required by this subsection.

(b) This section applies to a special legislative session only if the agency determines that there were significant changes

1 in state law made during the special legislative session that  
2 affect public school students.

3 (c) The document required under Subsection (a) must:

4 (1) be designed to explain to parents the manner in  
5 which state law has changed and the effect of the change on public  
6 school students;

7 (2) focus on changes in law as a result of which a  
8 parent can act to affect the education of the parent's child;

9 (3) be as specific as necessary to provide a parent  
10 with the informational tools needed to affect the education of the  
11 parent's child; and

12 (4) be written in language that is easy to understand.

13 (d) The document required under Subsection (a) may be  
14 included as part of the student handbook.

15 (e) As early in each school year as practicable, each school  
16 district and open-enrollment charter school shall:

17 (1) distribute, at a time the district or charter  
18 school distributes other information for parents, the most recent  
19 document prepared under this section; and

20 (2) post the document on the district's Internet  
21 website.

22 (f) The agency shall prepare the initial document under this  
23 section to be distributed by a school district or open-enrollment  
24 charter school during the 2012-2013 school year. Notwithstanding  
25 Subsection (a), the initial document must inform parents of  
26 significant changes in state law that affect public school students  
27 made:

1           (1) during the 82nd Regular Session of the  
2 legislature; and

3           (2) during the 81st Regular Session of the legislature  
4 under the following provisions of this code, including the  
5 information described by this subdivision, and under any other law  
6 as determined by the agency:

7                   (A) Section 28.0211, which:

8                           (i) no longer prohibits promotion to the  
9 fourth grade of a student who fails to perform satisfactorily on the  
10 state-administered third grade reading assessment instrument;

11                           (ii) requires accelerated instruction for  
12 students who fail to perform satisfactorily on the third, fourth,  
13 fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade state-administered  
14 assessment instrument; and

15                           (iii) requires a school district to assign  
16 a student who is promoted despite failure to perform satisfactorily  
17 on a state-administered assessment instrument to a teacher in the  
18 subject covered by the assessment instrument who meets all state  
19 and federal qualifications to teach that subject and grade level;

20                   (B) Section 28.025, which requires a student to  
21 enroll in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum  
22 requirements for the recommended or advanced high school program  
23 unless the student, the student's parent or other person standing  
24 in parental relation to the student, and a school counselor or  
25 school administrator agree in writing that the student be permitted  
26 to take courses under the minimum high school program;

27                   (C) Section 39.024, which adds a measure of

1 college readiness;

2 (D) Sections 39.025(a), (a-2), and (a-3), which  
3 impose the following requirements for a student to receive a high  
4 school diploma:

5 (i) requires a student to achieve, in each  
6 subject in the foundation curriculum, a satisfactory cumulative  
7 score on end-of-course assessment instruments;

8 (ii) requires a student to achieve a  
9 minimum score on an end-of-course assessment instrument for the  
10 score to count toward the student's cumulative score described by  
11 Subparagraph (i);

12 (iii) requires a student to achieve a score  
13 that meets or exceeds the score for satisfactory performance, as  
14 determined by the commissioner, on English III and Algebra II  
15 end-of-course assessment instruments to graduate under the  
16 recommended high school program; and

17 (iv) requires a student to achieve a score  
18 that meets or exceeds the score indicating college readiness, as  
19 determined by the commissioner, on English III and Algebra II  
20 end-of-course assessment instruments to graduate under the  
21 advanced high school program;

22 (E) Section 39.025(f), which provides transition  
23 provisions for assessment and for receipt of a high school diploma,  
24 including, for a student entering a grade above the ninth grade  
25 during the 2011-2012 school year, a requirement that the student:

26 (i) be administered exit-level assessment  
27 instruments rather than end-of-course assessment instruments; and

1                    (ii) be required to perform satisfactorily  
2 on each exit-level assessment instrument to receive a high school  
3 diploma;

4                    (F) Section 39.027, which amends provisions for  
5 exemptions of and other accommodations for students of limited  
6 English proficiency concerning state-administered assessment  
7 instruments;

8                    (G) Section 39.106, which amends duties imposed  
9 on a campus intervention team assigned to a campus that fails to  
10 meet certain standards; and

11                    (H) Section 39.116, which adds transitional  
12 interventions and sanctions during the transition to the new public  
13 school accreditation system established by the 81st Regular Session  
14 of the legislature.

15                    (g) This subsection and Subsection (f) expire September 1,  
16 2013.

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