

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 518

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to initiatives designed to improve performance of public
3 school students, including initiatives specifically for students
4 enrolled at the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 21.041, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsections (e), (f), (f-1), and (f-2) to read as follows:

8 (e) In proposing rules under Subsection (b)(2), the board
9 shall ensure that a person seeking to teach a subject in the
10 foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1) at the seventh
11 grade level or above is required to hold a certificate that
12 indicates the person's mastery of the specific subject taught. To
13 achieve this result, the board shall not issue a generalist
14 certificate that authorizes a person to teach a subject in the
15 foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1) at the seventh
16 grade level or above.

17 (f) Subsection (e) applies to initial certificates issued
18 on or after September 1, 2012. Subsection (e) does not affect the
19 validity of a certificate issued before that date or the
20 eligibility of a person holding such a certificate for subsequent
21 renewals of the certificate in accordance with board rules.

22 (f-1) In implementing Subsection (e), the board shall
23 ensure that the subject area examinations administered to persons
24 seeking certificates at the seventh grade level and above in

1 English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies are
2 at least as rigorous as the examinations administered before
3 September 1, 2013, to persons seeking Grades 8-12 certificates to
4 teach in those subject areas.

5 (f-2) Subsection (f-1) and this subsection expire September
6 1, 2013.

7 SECTION 2. Section 21.4551, Education Code, is amended by
8 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

9 (b-1) In addition to the components described by Subsection
10 (b), the commissioner shall ensure that each academy developed and
11 made available under this section includes a component on providing
12 students with writing instruction.

13 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 28.015 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 28.015. HIGH SCHOOL READINESS PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The
16 agency shall develop and implement a high school readiness pilot
17 program under which:

18 (1) a participating school with students enrolled at
19 the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels shall enroll all
20 students at those levels in a student advisory class; and

21 (2) a participating high school shall provide annual
22 high school orientation sessions for parents of students who are
23 enrolled at the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels in the high
24 school's attendance zone.

25 (b) An application to participate in the program may be
26 submitted by an individual school or by a school district on behalf
27 of multiple schools located in the district. To be eligible to

1 participate in the component of the program described by Subsection
2 (a)(1), a school must:

3 (1) be a school for which the district in which the
4 school is located receives funding under Title I of the Elementary
5 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.)
6 or be a school that, as determined by the commissioner, is a
7 low-performing school under Chapter 39 or has a high percentage of
8 students who are at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by
9 Section 29.081(d); and

10 (2) have students enrolled at the seventh and eighth
11 grade levels.

12 (c) The agency shall develop standards and guidelines for
13 the student advisory class. The standards and guidelines must:

14 (1) at a minimum, require that the class provide
15 instruction about:

- 16 (A) school culture;
- 17 (B) school procedures;
- 18 (C) test-taking skills;
- 19 (D) study skills;
- 20 (E) positive academic behaviors;
- 21 (F) civic and community responsibility; and
- 22 (G) high school and college readiness;

23 (2) permit the class to be offered as an electronic
24 course through the state virtual school network under Chapter 30A;
25 and

26 (3) provide that the class be taught, if practicable,
27 by an educator who does not instruct the enrolled students in other

1 course work.

2 (d) The agency shall develop standards and guidelines for
3 the high school orientation session. An orientation session must:

4 (1) prepare a parent for the transition to high school
5 of the parent's child;

6 (2) allow a parent to meet and interact with high
7 school teachers and administrators;

8 (3) provide a parent with information regarding:

9 (A) high school curriculum, including the
10 curriculum requirements for the minimum, recommended, and advanced
11 high school programs under Section 28.025; and

12 (B) high school options available to the parent's
13 child, including any high school magnet programs, academies, or
14 similar special programs available in the district;

15 (4) address the role of the parent in assisting the
16 parent's child in performing successfully in high school; and

17 (5) provide a parent with a written document that
18 addresses frequently asked questions from parents regarding the
19 transition to high school.

20 SECTION 4. Subsection (d), Section 29.081, Education Code,
21 is amended to read as follows:

22 (d) For purposes of this section, "student at risk of
23 dropping out of school" includes each student who is under 21 years
24 of age and who:

25 (1) was not advanced from one grade level to the next
26 for one or more school years;

27 (2) if the student is in grade 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or

1 12, did not maintain an average equivalent to 70 on a scale of 100 in
2 two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum during a semester
3 in the preceding or current school year or is not maintaining such
4 an average in two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum in
5 the current semester;

6 (3) did not perform satisfactorily on an assessment
7 instrument administered to the student under Subchapter B, Chapter
8 39, and who has not in the previous or current school year
9 subsequently performed on that instrument or another appropriate
10 instrument at a level equal to at least 110 percent of the level of
11 satisfactory performance on that instrument;

12 (4) if the student is in prekindergarten,
13 kindergarten, or grade 1, 2, or 3, did not perform satisfactorily on
14 a readiness test or assessment instrument administered during the
15 current school year;

16 (5) is pregnant or is a parent;

17 (6) has been placed in an alternative education
18 program in accordance with Section 37.006 during the preceding or
19 current school year;

20 (7) has been expelled in accordance with Section
21 37.007 during the preceding or current school year;

22 (8) is currently on parole, probation, deferred
23 prosecution, or other conditional release;

24 (9) was previously reported through the Public
25 Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to have dropped out
26 of school;

27 (10) is a student of limited English proficiency, as

1 defined by Section 29.052;

2 (11) is in the custody or care of the Department of
3 Protective and Regulatory Services or has, during the current
4 school year, been referred to the department by a school official,
5 officer of the juvenile court, or law enforcement official;

6 (12) is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section
7 11302, and its subsequent amendments; or

8 (13) resided in the preceding school year or resides
9 in the current school year in a residential placement facility in
10 the district, including a detention facility, substance abuse
11 treatment facility, emergency shelter, psychiatric hospital,
12 halfway house, or foster group home.

13 SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 29.100 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 29.100. EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION.

16 (a) Each year a school with students enrolled at the sixth,
17 seventh, or eighth grade level shall:

18 (1) identify the students at each of those grade
19 levels who are at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by
20 Section 29.081(d), or who are likely to become at risk of dropping
21 out of school, as determined in accordance with rules adopted by the
22 commissioner; and

23 (2) determine the specific interventions that the
24 school will use to address the needs of students at each of those
25 grade levels who are at risk of dropping out of school, as defined
26 by Section 29.081(d).

27 (b) Not later than July 1 of each year, a school with

1 students enrolled at a grade level from which students are promoted
2 to high school must provide each high school to which students at
3 the school are promoted with:

4 (1) the names of students entering the high school at
5 the beginning of the next school year that have been identified
6 under Subsection (a)(1); and

7 (2) if applicable, the specific interventions used
8 with each student named under Subdivision (1).

9 (c) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
10 implement this section.

11 SECTION 6. Subsection (c-1), Section 42.152, Education
12 Code, is amended to read as follows:

13 (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), funds allocated under
14 this section may be used to fund in proportion to the percentage of
15 students served by the program that meet the criteria in Section
16 29.081(d) or (g):

17 (1) an accelerated reading instruction program under
18 Section 28.006(g); ~~or~~

19 (2) a program for treatment of students who have
20 dyslexia or a related disorder as required by Section 38.003; or

21 (3) an extended learning time program grounded in
22 practices that are proven effective in improving student retention
23 and performance and in preparing students for future college and
24 career readiness.

25 SECTION 7. The commissioner of education shall implement
26 Subsection (b-1), Section 21.4551, Education Code, as added by this
27 Act, beginning with reading academies offered on or after January

1 1, 2012.

2 SECTION 8. The Texas Education Agency shall develop
3 standards and guidelines for the student advisory class and high
4 school orientation session in compliance with Section 28.015,
5 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as possible after the
6 effective date of this Act. The agency shall fully implement the
7 pilot program required by Section 28.015, Education Code, as added
8 by this Act, not later than the 2012-2013 school year.

9 SECTION 9. Section 29.100, Education Code, as added by this
10 Act, applies beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

11 SECTION 10. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
12 Act applies beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

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