

1-1 By: Shapiro S.B. No. 518
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 3, 2011; February 17, 2011,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;
1-4 April 18, 2011, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 18, 2011,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 518 By: Shapiro

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to initiatives designed to improve performance of public
1-11 school students, including initiatives specifically for students
1-12 enrolled at the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Section 21.041, Education Code, is amended by
1-15 adding Subsections (e), (f), (f-1), and (f-2) to read as follows:

1-16 (e) In proposing rules under Subsection (b)(2), the board
1-17 shall ensure that a person seeking to teach a subject in the
1-18 foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1) at the seventh
1-19 grade level or above is required to hold a certificate that
1-20 indicates the person's mastery of the specific subject taught. To
1-21 achieve this result, the board shall not issue a generalist
1-22 certificate that authorizes a person to teach a subject in the
1-23 foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1) at the seventh
1-24 grade level or above.

1-25 (f) Subsection (e) applies to initial certificates issued
1-26 on or after September 1, 2012. Subsection (e) does not affect the
1-27 validity of a certificate issued before that date or the
1-28 eligibility of a person holding such a certificate for subsequent
1-29 renewals of the certificate in accordance with board rules.

1-30 (f-1) In implementing Subsection (e), the board shall
1-31 ensure that the subject area examinations administered to persons
1-32 seeking certificates at the seventh grade level and above in
1-33 English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies are
1-34 at least as rigorous as the examinations administered before
1-35 September 1, 2013, to persons seeking Grades 8-12 certificates to
1-36 teach in those subject areas.

1-37 (f-2) Subsection (f-1) and this subsection expire September
1-38 1, 2013.

1-39 SECTION 2. Section 21.4551, Education Code, is amended by
1-40 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

1-41 (b-1) In addition to the components described by Subsection
1-42 (b), the commissioner shall ensure that each academy developed and
1-43 made available under this section includes a component on providing
1-44 students with writing instruction.

1-45 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
1-46 amended by adding Section 28.015 to read as follows:

1-47 Sec. 28.015. HIGH SCHOOL READINESS PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The
1-48 agency shall develop and implement a high school readiness pilot
1-49 program under which:

1-50 (1) a participating school with students enrolled at
1-51 the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels shall enroll all
1-52 students at those levels in a student advisory class; and

1-53 (2) a participating high school shall provide annual
1-54 high school orientation sessions for parents of students who are
1-55 enrolled at the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade levels in the high
1-56 school's attendance zone.

1-57 (b) An application to participate in the program may be
1-58 submitted by an individual school or by a school district on behalf
1-59 of multiple schools located in the district. To be eligible to
1-60 participate in the component of the program described by Subsection
1-61 (a)(1), a school must:

1-62 (1) be a school for which the district in which the
1-63 school is located receives funding under Title I of the Elementary

2-1 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.)
2-2 or be a school that, as determined by the commissioner, is a
2-3 low-performing school under Chapter 39 or has a high percentage of
2-4 students who are at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by
2-5 Section 29.081(d); and

2-6 (2) have students enrolled at the seventh and eighth
2-7 grade levels.

2-8 (c) The agency shall develop standards and guidelines for
2-9 the student advisory class. The standards and guidelines must:

2-10 (1) at a minimum, require that the class provide
2-11 instruction about:

- 2-12 (A) school culture;
- 2-13 (B) school procedures;
- 2-14 (C) test-taking skills;
- 2-15 (D) study skills;
- 2-16 (E) positive academic behaviors;
- 2-17 (F) civic and community responsibility; and
- 2-18 (G) high school and college readiness;

2-19 (2) permit the class to be offered as an electronic
2-20 course through the state virtual school network under Chapter 30A;
2-21 and

2-22 (3) provide that the class be taught, if practicable,
2-23 by an educator who does not instruct the enrolled students in other
2-24 course work.

2-25 (d) The agency shall develop standards and guidelines for
2-26 the high school orientation session. An orientation session must:

2-27 (1) prepare a parent for the transition to high school
2-28 of the parent's child;

2-29 (2) allow a parent to meet and interact with high
2-30 school teachers and administrators;

2-31 (3) provide a parent with information regarding:
2-32 (A) high school curriculum, including the
2-33 curriculum requirements for the minimum, recommended, and advanced
2-34 high school programs under Section 28.025; and

2-35 (B) high school options available to the parent's
2-36 child, including any high school magnet programs, academies, or
2-37 similar special programs available in the district;

2-38 (4) address the role of the parent in assisting the
2-39 parent's child in performing successfully in high school; and

2-40 (5) provide a parent with a written document that
2-41 addresses frequently asked questions from parents regarding the
2-42 transition to high school.

2-43 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
2-44 amended by adding Section 29.100 to read as follows:

2-45 Sec. 29.100. EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION.

2-46 (a) Each year a school with students enrolled at the sixth,
2-47 seventh, or eighth grade level shall:

2-48 (1) identify the students at each of those grade
2-49 levels who are at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by
2-50 Section 29.081(d), or who are likely to become at risk of dropping
2-51 out of school, as determined in accordance with rules adopted by the
2-52 commissioner; and

2-53 (2) determine the specific interventions that the
2-54 school will use to address the needs of students at each of those
2-55 grade levels who are at risk of dropping out of school, as defined
2-56 by Section 29.081(d).

2-57 (b) Not later than July 1 of each year, a school with
2-58 students enrolled at a grade level from which students are promoted
2-59 to high school must provide each high school to which students at
2-60 the school are promoted with:

2-61 (1) the names of students entering the high school at
2-62 the beginning of the next school year that have been identified
2-63 under Subsection (a)(1); and

2-64 (2) if applicable, the specific interventions used
2-65 with each student named under Subdivision (1).

2-66 (c) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
2-67 implement this section.

2-68 SECTION 5. The commissioner of education shall implement
2-69 Subsection (b-1), Section 21.4551, Education Code, as added by this

3-1 Act, beginning with reading academies offered on or after January
3-2 1, 2012.

3-3 SECTION 6. The Texas Education Agency shall develop
3-4 standards and guidelines for the student advisory class and high
3-5 school orientation session in compliance with Section 28.015,
3-6 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as possible after the
3-7 effective date of this Act. The agency shall fully implement the
3-8 pilot program required by Section 28.015, Education Code, as added
3-9 by this Act, not later than the 2012-2013 school year.

3-10 SECTION 7. Section 29.100, Education Code, as added by this
3-11 Act, applies beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

3-12 SECTION 8. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
3-13 Act applies beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

3-14 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3-15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3-16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3-17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3-18 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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