

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1499

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to advancement of college readiness in the public school  
3 curriculum through evaluations and recommendations of vertical  
4 teams composed of faculty members of institutions of higher  
5 education.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 28.008, Education Code, is amended by  
8 amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) and adding Subsections  
9 (c-1), (c-2), and (c-3) to read as follows:

10 (a) To ensure that students are able to perform  
11 college-level course work at institutions of higher education, the  
12 commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education  
13 shall establish vertical teams composed of faculty members [~~public~~  
14 ~~school educators and institution~~] of institutions of higher  
15 education and private or independent institutions of higher  
16 education, as those terms are defined by Section 61.003 [faculty].

17 (b) The vertical teams shall:

18 (1) recommend for approval by the commissioner of  
19 education and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, on the  
20 same cycle as the essential knowledge and skills of subjects of the  
21 required curriculum are reviewed for purposes of Section 28.002,  
22 college readiness standards and expectations that address what  
23 students must know and be able to do to succeed in entry-level  
24 courses offered at institutions of higher education;

1           (2) evaluate, on the same cycle as the essential  
2 knowledge and skills of subjects of the required curriculum are  
3 reviewed for purposes of Section 28.002, whether the high school  
4 curriculum requirements identified under Section 28.002 and other  
5 instructional requirements serve to prepare students to  
6 successfully perform college-level course work;

7           (3) recommend, on the same cycle as the essential  
8 knowledge and skills of subjects of the required curriculum are  
9 reviewed for purposes of Section 28.002, how the public school  
10 curriculum requirements can be aligned with college readiness  
11 standards and expectations;

12           (4) develop instructional strategies for teaching  
13 courses to prepare students to successfully perform college-level  
14 course work; and

15           (5) develop or establish minimum standards for  
16 curricula, professional development materials, and online support  
17 materials in English language arts, mathematics, science, and  
18 social studies, designed for students who need additional  
19 assistance in preparing to successfully perform college-level  
20 course work.

21           (c) The commissioner of education and the Texas Higher  
22 Education Coordinating Board by rule shall establish the  
23 composition and duties of the vertical teams established under this  
24 section. The rule establishing the composition of the vertical  
25 teams must comply with Subsections (c-1), (c-2), and (c-3).

26           (c-1) In making appointments for a vertical team, the  
27 commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education

1 shall attempt to achieve a balanced combination of educational  
2 perspectives.

3 (c-2) To ensure that each vertical team is composed of  
4 faculty members who are experts in a subject area under review by  
5 that team, each team member must have:

6 (1) at least five years of higher education teaching  
7 experience in a subject area under review and a terminal degree in  
8 the subject area; or

9 (2) at least five years of higher education teaching  
10 experience in the field of education and a doctoral degree in  
11 education.

12 (c-3) If a vertical team is making evaluations or  
13 recommendations concerning career and technical education:

14 (1) at least one member of the vertical team must be a  
15 faculty member from the Texas State Technical College System; and

16 (2) at least one member of the vertical team must be a  
17 faculty member from Lamar Institute of Technology.

18 (d) The State Board of Education shall incorporate college  
19 readiness standards and expectations recommended by a vertical team  
20 and approved by the commissioner of education and the Texas Higher  
21 Education Coordinating Board under Subsection (b) into the  
22 essential knowledge and skills identified by the board rule under  
23 Section 28.002(c) and may, by majority vote of the board, approve  
24 other recommendations of a vertical team.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.