

By: Allen

H.B. No. 3003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to school district programs to assist students in making
3 the transition back to school after certain prolonged placements
4 outside of school.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 29.921 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 29.921. PROGRAM TO ASSIST STUDENT TRANSITION BACK TO
9 SCHOOL AFTER PROLONGED PLACEMENT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL. (a) This
10 section applies to the following facilities:

11 (1) a disciplinary alternative education program;

12 (2) a juvenile justice alternative education program;

13 (3) a residential program or facility operated by or
14 under contract with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, a
15 juvenile board, or any other governmental entity;

16 (4) any residential treatment center; and

17 (5) a public or private hospital.

18 (b) Each school district shall establish and provide a
19 program to assist district students in making the transition back
20 to school after being in a facility listed under Subsection (a) for
21 a period equivalent to 30 instructional days or more during the
22 school year. The program must include development and
23 implementation of a personalized transition service plan for each
24 student who has been absent from school as described by this

1 subsection. The principal of the school the student attends
2 following the absence shall designate one or more appropriate
3 school employees to develop the plan. To the greatest extent
4 practicable, the plan must be developed in consultation with the
5 student and the student's parent or person standing in parental
6 relation to the student. To the extent appropriate for a particular
7 student, the plan must include:

8 (1) consideration of the best educational placement
9 for the student;

10 (2) provision of counseling, behavioral management
11 assistance, or academic assistance by the school based on
12 considerations described by Subsection (c) and the student's
13 academic, school reentry, and career and employment goals; and

14 (3) assistance concerning access to community mental
15 health or substance abuse services.

16 (c) A transition service plan under Subsection (b) must, to
17 the greatest extent practicable, take into consideration any
18 relevant aspect of the student's medical or psychological condition
19 and any education or medical or other treatment the student has
20 received while at a facility listed under Subsection (a). A school
21 employee shall request the parental consent necessary to obtain
22 information for purposes of this subsection.

23 (d) As soon as a facility listed under Subsection (a) has
24 determined the date of a student's release from the facility, the
25 facility shall give notice of that date to the school district in
26 which a student intends to attend school following release. The
27 agency shall give annual written notice to each facility of the

1 facility's duty under this subsection. This subsection applies
2 only to a student subject to compulsory attendance requirements
3 under Section 25.085.

4 SECTION 2. This Act applies to absences from public school
5 beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.