

By: Rodriguez

S.B. No. 123

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the commissioner of education to issue subpoenas and conduct accreditation investigations.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 39.0302, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) During an agency investigation or audit of a school district under Section 39.0301(e) or (f), an accreditation investigation under Section 39.057(a)(8) or (13) [~~39.075(a)(8)~~], or an investigation by the State Board for Educator Certification of an educator for an alleged violation of an assessment instrument security procedure established under Section 39.0301(a), the commissioner may issue a subpoena to compel the attendance of a relevant witness or the production, for inspection or copying, of relevant evidence that is located in this state.

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 39.057, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commissioner shall authorize special accreditation investigations to be conducted:

(1) when excessive numbers of absences of students eligible to be tested on state assessment instruments are determined;

(2) when excessive numbers of allowable exemptions from the required state assessment instruments are determined;

1 (3) in response to complaints submitted to the agency
2 with respect to alleged violations of civil rights or other
3 requirements imposed on the state by federal law or court order;

4 (4) in response to established compliance reviews of
5 the district's financial accounting practices and state and federal
6 program requirements;

7 (5) when extraordinary numbers of student placements
8 in disciplinary alternative education programs, other than
9 placements under Sections 37.006 and 37.007, are determined;

10 (6) in response to an allegation involving a conflict
11 between members of the board of trustees or between the board and
12 the district administration if it appears that the conflict
13 involves a violation of a role or duty of the board members or the
14 administration clearly defined by this code;

15 (7) when excessive numbers of students in special
16 education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, are assessed
17 through assessment instruments developed or adopted under Section
18 39.023(b);

19 (8) in response to an allegation regarding or an
20 analysis using a statistical method result indicating a possible
21 violation of an assessment instrument security procedure
22 established under Section 39.0301, including for the purpose of
23 investigating or auditing a school district under that section;

24 (9) when a significant pattern of decreased academic
25 performance has developed as a result of the promotion in the
26 preceding two school years of students who did not perform
27 satisfactorily as determined by the commissioner under Section

1 39.0241(a) on assessment instruments administered under Section
2 39.023(a), (c), or (1);

3 (10) when excessive numbers of students graduate under
4 the minimum high school program;

5 (11) when excessive numbers of students eligible to
6 enroll fail to complete an Algebra II course or any other course
7 determined by the commissioner as distinguishing between students
8 participating in the recommended high school program from students
9 participating in the minimum high school program;

10 (12) when resource allocation practices as evaluated
11 under Section 39.0821 indicate a potential for significant
12 improvement in resource allocation; ~~or~~

13 (13) in response to a complaint submitted to the
14 agency with respect to alleged inaccurate data that is reported
15 through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS)
16 or through other reports required by state or federal law or rule or
17 court order and that is used by the agency to make a determination
18 relating to public school accountability, including accreditation,
19 under this chapter; or

20 (14) as the commissioner otherwise determines
21 necessary.

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