

By: Birdwell

S.B. No. 445

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an informed student document for prospective students of certain public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 51A, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 51A. ONLINE INSTITUTION RESUMES AND INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SECTION 2. Sections 51A.002, 51A.003, and 51A.004, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51A.002. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COORDINATING BOARD RELATING TO INSTITUTION RESUMES AND INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENTS; GENERAL REQUIREMENTS [~~FOR INSTITUTION RESUMES~~]. (a) The coordinating board, in consultation with each institution of higher education to which this chapter applies, shall develop and maintain online resumes and informed student documents, if applicable, for each of those institutions.

(b) The coordinating board shall:

(1) request from each institution of higher education to which this chapter applies any information the coordinating board considers necessary for the coordinating board to include information or calculate data required to be included in the institution's resume or informed student document;

(2) establish for each institution of higher education

1 to which this chapter applies a list of representative in-state and  
2 out-of-state peer institutions and maintain that list on the  
3 coordinating board's Internet website;

4 (3) ensure that each of an institution of higher  
5 education's online resumes and informed student documents, if  
6 applicable:

7 (A) is available to the public on the  
8 coordinating board's Internet website, in a one-page format if  
9 possible, and is accessible through a link that appears on the first  
10 frame of the coordinating board's Internet website home page in a  
11 font that is larger than the font of the majority of the text on the  
12 home page;

13 (B) uses enhanced, user-friendly search  
14 capabilities to ensure that the information required to be included  
15 in the resume or informed student document is easily accessible to  
16 the persons for whom the resume or informed student document is  
17 designed; and

18 (C) includes a clearly identifiable link to  
19 information on the coordinating board's Internet website regarding  
20 the coordinating board's higher education accountability system;  
21 and

22 (4) ensure that the information provided in each  
23 resume or informed student document is accurate and up to date and  
24 includes the most recent data available for out-of-state peer  
25 institutions.

26 (c) The coordinating board may modify, as the coordinating  
27 board considers necessary, national data regarding an

1 institution's out-of-state peer institutions to ensure uniformity  
2 in the comparison of that data to data regarding the institution for  
3 which the resume or informed student document is created and the  
4 institution's in-state peer institutions in a resume or informed  
5 student document under this chapter.

6 (d) Except as provided by Section 51A.206(b), the ~~[The]~~  
7 coordinating board is not required to include in the resume or  
8 informed student document any category of information that is  
9 unavailable to the coordinating board.

10 (e) The data relating to student loans, grants, or  
11 scholarships included by the coordinating board on an institution's  
12 resume or informed student document under this chapter ~~[subchapter]~~  
13 must be the same as that published in regard to the institution by  
14 the United States Department of Education on its "College  
15 Navigator" website, or a successor or related website maintained by  
16 the United States Department of Education.

17 Sec. 51A.003. DUTIES OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
18 RELATING TO INSTITUTION RESUMES AND INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENTS.  
19 Each institution of higher education to which this chapter applies  
20 shall:

21 (1) submit to the coordinating board any information  
22 requested by the coordinating board as necessary for the  
23 coordinating board to include information or calculate data  
24 required to be included in the institution's resumes or informed  
25 student documents, or both, as applicable; and

26 (2) ensure that the first frame of the institution's  
27 Internet website home page includes, in a font that is larger than

1 the font of the majority of the text on the home page, an accessible  
2 link to the institution's online resumes or informed student  
3 documents, or both, as applicable, maintained on the coordinating  
4 board's Internet website.

5       Sec. 51A.004. LINK TO FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID  
6 INFORMATION. An institution may satisfy a requirement of this  
7 chapter relating to student loan, grant, or scholarship information  
8 by linking the institution's online resume or informed student  
9 documents, or both, as applicable [~~of the institution~~] to that  
10 information as it appears on the website known as "College  
11 Navigator," or a successor or related website, maintained by the  
12 National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of  
13 Education.

14       SECTION 3. Chapter 51A, Education Code, is amended by  
15 adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

16       SUBCHAPTER E. INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
17               EDUCATION OTHER THAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL UNITS

18       Sec. 51A.201. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter  
19 applies to each institution of higher education other than a  
20 medical and dental unit.

21       Sec. 51A.202. INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT FOR PROSPECTIVE  
22 STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS. (a) The coordinating board shall  
23 maintain for each institution to which this subchapter applies an  
24 informed student document that is designed for use by prospective  
25 students of the institution and their parents. The document shall  
26 be made available by the institution to the public, legislators,  
27 and other interested policy makers in accordance with Subchapter A.

1       (b) The informed student document required by this section  
2 must identify:

3           (1) the institutional grouping to which the  
4 institution is assigned under the coordinating board's higher  
5 education accountability system; and

6           (2) the institution's in-state and out-of-state peer  
7 institutions.

8       (c) Information required to be included in the informed  
9 student document regarding the institution's in-state or  
10 out-of-state peer institutions must be listed in the form of the  
11 average of that information for those institutions unless otherwise  
12 prescribed by coordinating board rule.

13       (d) The informed student document must include the  
14 information required by this subchapter relating to the institution  
15 for the most recent state fiscal year for which the information is  
16 available and compare that information to the same information for  
17 the state fiscal year preceding the most recent state fiscal year  
18 for which the information is available and the state fiscal year  
19 preceding the most recent state fiscal year for which the  
20 information is available by five years.

21       (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,  
22 the coordinating board is not required to include in an  
23 institution's informed student document any category of  
24 information not applicable to the institution's institutional  
25 grouping under the coordinating board's higher education  
26 accountability system.

27       Sec. 51A.203. COST INFORMATION. An informed student

1 document must include under the heading "COSTS":

2 (1) the average annual total academic costs for a  
3 resident undergraduate student enrolled in 30 semester credit  
4 hours:

5 (A) at the institution; and

6 (B) at the institution's in-state and  
7 out-of-state peer institutions;

8 (2) the average net annual total academic costs for a  
9 resident undergraduate student enrolled in 30 semester credit  
10 hours, excluding grants and scholarships:

11 (A) at the institution; and

12 (B) at the institution's in-state and  
13 out-of-state peer institutions; and

14 (3) the average amount of student debt of a bachelor's  
15 degree-seeking student at graduation:

16 (A) at the institution; and

17 (B) at the institution's in-state and  
18 out-of-state peer institutions.

19 Sec. 51A.204. STUDENT SUCCESS INFORMATION. An informed  
20 student document must include under the heading "STUDENT SUCCESS":

21 (1) the average Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA)  
22 score of graduating undergraduate students:

23 (A) at the institution; and

24 (B) at the institution's in-state and  
25 out-of-state peer institutions;

26 (2) the four-year, five-year, and six-year graduation  
27 rates of full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students:

- 1                   (A) at the institution; and  
2                   (B) at the institution's in-state and  
3 out-of-state peer institutions; and  
4                   (3) the average number of fall and spring semesters of  
5 enrollment attempted by a student to obtain a bachelor's degree:  
6                   (A) at the institution; and  
7                   (B) at the institution's in-state peer  
8 institutions.

9           Sec. 51A.205. ADMISSIONS INFORMATION. An informed student  
10 document must include under the heading "ADMISSIONS":

- 11                   (1) the middle 50 percent test score range of  
12 first-time undergraduate students at the institution whose SAT  
13 scores were in the 25th to 75th percentile of students' scores at  
14 that institution;  
15                   (2) the middle 50 percent test score range of  
16 first-time undergraduate students at the institution whose ACT  
17 scores were in the 25th to 75th percentile of students' scores at  
18 that institution;  
19                   (3) the percentage of the students who applied for  
20 first-time undergraduate admission to the institution who were  
21 offered admission to the institution; and  
22                   (4) the percentage of undergraduate students admitted  
23 to the institution who graduated in the top 10 percent of the  
24 student's high school graduating class.

25           Sec. 51A.206. INFORMATION REGARDING SUCCESS BY MAJOR. (a)  
26 An informed student document must include under the heading  
27 "STUDENT SUCCESS BY UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR" and listed alphabetically

1 by undergraduate major:

2 (1) the average Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA)  
3 score of graduating undergraduate students:

4 (A) at the institution;

5 (B) ranked against other university majors; and

6 (C) at the institution's in-state and  
7 out-of-state peer institutions;

8 (2) the retention rate of first-time, full-time,  
9 degree-seeking entering undergraduate students:

10 (A) enrolled in the institution after one  
11 academic year and after two academic years; and

12 (B) enrolled in the institution's in-state peer  
13 institutions after two academic years;

14 (3) the average starting salary for graduates of  
15 undergraduate degree programs:

16 (A) of the institution; and

17 (B) of the institution's in-state and  
18 out-of-state peer institutions;

19 (4) the unemployment rate for the following graduates  
20 of the institution:

21 (A) those who graduated from undergraduate  
22 degree programs during one of the three years immediately preceding  
23 the year covered by the document;

24 (B) those who graduated from undergraduate  
25 degree programs before the time period described by Paragraph (A);  
26 and

27 (C) those awarded a graduate degree by the



1 institution; and

2 (5) the average, median, 25th percentile, and 75th  
3 percentile earnings for the following graduates of the institution:

4 (A) those who graduated from undergraduate  
5 degree programs during the three-year period preceding the year  
6 covered by the document;

7 (B) those who graduated from undergraduate  
8 degree programs before the time period described by Paragraph (A);  
9 and

10 (C) those awarded a graduate degree by the  
11 institution.

12 (b) If data required under this section for an institution  
13 is not available to the coordinating board, the coordinating board  
14 shall use comparable state or national data, whichever is  
15 available, more reliable, and most current.

16 Sec. 51A.207. STUDENT READING OF DOCUMENT. Each institution  
17 to which this subchapter applies shall require each applicant for  
18 admission to the institution or the applicant's legal guardian to  
19 verify by signature that the applicant has read the institution's  
20 informed student document in its entirety as a prerequisite to the  
21 applicant's enrollment in the institution.

22 SECTION 4. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
23 shall create the informed student documents required by Subchapter  
24 E, Chapter 51A, Education Code, as added by this Act, and provide  
25 the documents on the board's Internet website not later than  
26 February 1, 2014.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.