

By: Van de Putte, et al.

S.B. No. 1538

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to evaluating the performance, including computing dropout and completion rates, of public schools designated as dropout recovery schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.0545 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0545. EVALUATING DROPOUT RECOVERY SCHOOLS.

(a) For purposes of evaluating performance under Section 39.053(c), the commissioner shall designate as a dropout recovery school a school district or an open-enrollment charter school or a campus of a district or of an open-enrollment charter school:

(1) that serves students in grades 9 through 12 and has an enrollment of which at least 50 percent of the students are 17 years of age or older as of September 1 of the school year as reported for the fall semester Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) submission; and

(2) that meets the eligibility requirements for and is registered under alternative education accountability procedures adopted by the commissioner.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 39.053(c)(2), the commissioner shall use the alternative completion rate under this subsection to determine the student achievement indicator under Section 39.053(c)(2) for a dropout recovery school. The alternative

1 completion rate shall be the ratio of the total number of students
2 who graduate, continue attending school into the next academic
3 year, or receive a high school equivalency certificate to the total
4 number of students in the longitudinal cohort of students.

5 (c) Notwithstanding Section 39.053(c)(2), in determining
6 the performance rating under Section 39.054 of a dropout recovery
7 school, the commissioner shall include any student described by
8 Section 39.053(g-1) who graduates or receives a high school
9 equivalency certificate.

10 (d) For a dropout recovery school, only the best result from
11 the primary administration and any retake of an assessment
12 instrument administered to a student in the school year evaluated
13 under the accountability procedures adopted by the commissioner may
14 be considered in determining the performance rating of the school
15 under Section 39.054.

16 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014
17 school year.

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