

By: Menéndez

H.B. No. 959

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to limiting certain state-required assessment instruments
3 administered to public school students in certain grades to
4 assessments required by federal law.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 39.023(a), Education Code, as effective
7 until on or before September 1, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate
9 criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess
10 essential knowledge and skills in subjects for which assessment is
11 required by federal law [~~reading, writing, mathematics, social~~
12 ~~studies, and science~~]. Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), all
13 students, other than students assessed under Subsection (b) or (1)
14 or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in[+

15 [~~(1) mathematics, annually in grades three through~~
16 ~~seven without the aid of technology and in grade eight with the aid~~
17 ~~of technology on any assessment instrument that includes algebra,~~

18 [~~(2) reading, annually in grades three through eight,~~

19 [~~(3) writing, including spelling and grammar, in~~
20 ~~grades four and seven,~~

21 [~~(4) social studies, in grade eight,~~

22 [~~(5) science, in grades five and eight, and~~

23 [~~(6)] any [other] subject and grade required by~~

24 federal law.

1 SECTION 2. Section 39.023(a), Education Code, as effective
2 on or before September 1, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 (a) The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate
4 criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess
5 essential knowledge and skills in subjects for which assessment is
6 required by federal law [~~reading, writing, mathematics, social~~
7 ~~studies, and science~~]. Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), all
8 students, other than students assessed under Subsection (b) or (1)
9 or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in any subject
10 and grade required by federal law[+]

11 [~~(1) mathematics, in grades three and five without the~~
12 ~~aid of technology and in grade eight with the aid of technology on~~
13 ~~any assessment instrument that includes algebra,~~

14 [~~(2) reading, in grades three, five, and eight,~~

15 [~~(3) writing, including spelling and grammar, in~~
16 ~~grades four and seven,~~

17 [~~(4) social studies, in grade eight, and~~

18 [~~(5) science, in grades five and eight~~].

19 SECTION 3. Section 39.023(a), Education Code, as effective
20 September 1, 2017, is amended to read as follows:

21 (a) The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate
22 criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess
23 essential knowledge and skills in subjects for which assessment is
24 required by federal law [~~reading, writing, mathematics, social~~
25 ~~studies, and science~~]. Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), all
26 students, other than students assessed under Subsection (b) or (1)
27 or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in[+]

1 ~~[(1) mathematics, annually in grades three through~~
2 ~~seven without the aid of technology and in grade eight with the aid~~
3 ~~of technology on any assessment instrument that includes algebra;~~
4 ~~[(2) reading, annually in grades three through eight;~~
5 ~~[(3) writing, including spelling and grammar, in~~
6 ~~grades four and seven;~~
7 ~~[(4) social studies, in grade eight;~~
8 ~~[(5) science, in grades five and eight; and~~
9 ~~[(6)] any [other] subject and grade required by~~
10 federal law.

11 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016
12 school year.

13 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.