

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 1892

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a community school grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter M to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M. COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 29.501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association located in close proximity to the population the organization serves.

(2) "Community school" means a public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school that partners with one or more community-based organizations to coordinate academic, social, and health services to reduce barriers to learning and improve the quality of education for students in the community.

Sec. 29.502. COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The agency shall establish a competitive grant program to assist public elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools in developing community school plans and transitioning into community schools.

(b) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the agency shall award two-year grants to eligible schools. Each grant may not exceed:

(1) \$60,000 each academic year to pay a stipend to a community school coordinator; and

1 (2) \$25,000 each academic year to develop and
2 implement a community school plan.

3 (c) On application from a school, a grant awarded under this
4 section may be extended by the agency for an additional year.

5 Sec. 29.503. ELIGIBILITY. A public elementary, middle,
6 junior high, or high school is eligible to apply for a grant under
7 this subchapter if the school demonstrates a commitment to
8 transitioning into a community school by establishing:

9 (1) a school community partnership team to function as
10 the campus-level planning and decision-making committee required
11 under Section 11.251, composed of the members required under
12 Section 11.251 and additional community representatives; and

13 (2) a partnership with a lead community-based
14 organization that has experience in developing and implementing a
15 community school plan.

16 Sec. 29.504. USE OF FUNDS. (a) Funds granted under this
17 subchapter may not be used for direct programs for students or
18 families or for other activities not related to developing or
19 implementing a community school plan.

20 (b) A community school coordinator employed using grant
21 funds must have relevant experience as a school district employee
22 or an employee of a community-based organization with experience in
23 developing and implementing a community school plan. The
24 coordinator's duties include:

25 (1) recruiting community partners and building
26 community support for the school;

27 (2) coordinating:

1 (A) the school community partnership team's
2 planning and training activities;

3 (B) planning and evaluation efforts between the
4 school and community partners;

5 (C) academic and student and family support
6 programs; and

7 (D) after-school, summer, and enrichment
8 programs for students;

9 (3) encouraging community and parent engagement in the
10 school;

11 (4) seeking available resources for implementing
12 community school programs and services;

13 (5) conducting an annual needs assessment of the
14 school in coordination with the school community partnership team;
15 and

16 (6) acting as a liaison between the school, other
17 community schools, the school district, and community partners.

18 (c) Before a community school plan may be implemented, the
19 plan must:

20 (1) satisfy the requirements for a campus improvement
21 plan under Section 11.253; and

22 (2) be approved by:

23 (A) at least 75 percent of campus faculty and
24 staff and 75 percent of parents of students enrolled at the school;
25 and

26 (B) the board of trustees of the school district
27 in which the school is located.

1 Sec. 29.505. LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS. If a school with
2 performance below any standard under Section 39.054(e) receives a
3 grant under this subchapter, the school's school community
4 partnership team functions as the campus intervention team for
5 purposes of Section 39.106.

6 Sec. 29.506. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT. (a) At least once each
7 year, the agency shall:

8 (1) monitor the transition into a community school of
9 each school awarded a grant under this subchapter; and

10 (2) evaluate whether the school has made satisfactory
11 progress toward carrying out the school's objectives as set out in
12 the community school plan.

13 (b) A school that the agency determines has not made
14 satisfactory progress under Subsection (a) may continue to receive
15 grant funds under this subchapter only if the school:

16 (1) amends the school's community school plan to
17 address any deficiencies the agency identified during the
18 evaluation; and

19 (2) demonstrates strong community support for the
20 school's transition to a community school.

21 Sec. 29.507. RULES. The commissioner shall adopt rules as
22 necessary to implement this subchapter.

23 SECTION 2. Section 29.259, Education Code, is transferred
24 to Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, and redesignated as
25 Section 29.923, Education Code, to read as follows:

26 Sec. 29.923 [29.259]. ADULT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND
27 INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION CHARTER SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this

1 section, "adult education" means services and instruction provided
2 below the college level for adults by a nonprofit entity described
3 by Subsection (e).

4 (b) The commissioner shall establish an adult high school
5 diploma and industry certification charter school pilot program as
6 provided by this section as a strategy for meeting industry needs
7 for a sufficiently trained workforce within the state.

8 (c) The agency shall adopt and administer a standardized
9 secondary exit-level assessment instrument appropriate for
10 assessing adult education program participants who successfully
11 complete high school curriculum requirements under a program
12 provided under this section. The commissioner shall determine the
13 level of performance considered to be satisfactory on the secondary
14 exit-level assessment instrument for receipt of a high school
15 diploma by an adult education program participant in a program
16 provided under this section.

17 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and in addition to the
18 number of charters allowed under Subchapter D, Chapter 12, a
19 charter under the pilot program may, on the basis of an application
20 submitted, be granted to a single nonprofit entity described by
21 Subsection (e) to provide an adult education program for not more
22 than 150 individuals described by Subsection (g) to successfully
23 complete:

24 (1) a high school program that can lead to a diploma;
25 and

26 (2) career and technology education courses that can
27 lead to industry certification.

1 (e) A nonprofit entity may be granted a charter under this
2 section only if the entity:

3 (1) has a successful history of providing education
4 services, including industry certifications and job placement
5 services, to adults 18 years of age and older whose educational and
6 training opportunities have been limited by educational
7 disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or
8 similar circumstances; and

9 (2) agrees to commit at least \$1 million to the adult
10 education program offered.

11 (f) A nonprofit entity granted a charter under this section
12 may partner with a public junior college to provide career and
13 technology courses that lead to industry certification.

14 (g) A person who is at least 19 years of age and not more
15 than 50 years of age is eligible to enroll in the adult education
16 program under this section if the person has not earned a high
17 school equivalency certificate and:

18 (1) has failed to complete the curriculum requirements
19 for high school graduation; or

20 (2) has failed to perform satisfactorily on an
21 assessment instrument required for high school graduation.

22 (h) The nonprofit entity must include in its charter
23 application the information required by Subsection (i).

24 (i) A charter granted under this section must:

25 (1) include a description of the adult education
26 program to be offered under this section; and

27 (2) establish specific, objective standards for

1 receiving a high school diploma, including satisfactory
2 performance on the standardized secondary exit-level assessment
3 instrument described by Subsection (c).

4 (j) Funding for an adult education program under this
5 section is provided based on the following:

6 (1) for participants who are 26 years of age and older,
7 an amount per participant from available general revenue funds
8 appropriated for the pilot program equal to the statewide average
9 amount of state funding per student in weighted average daily
10 attendance that would be allocated under the Foundation School
11 Program to an open-enrollment charter school under Section 12.106
12 were the student under 26 years of age; and

13 (2) for participants who are at least 19 years of age
14 and under 26 years of age, an amount per participant through the
15 Foundation School Program equal to the amount of state funding per
16 student in weighted average daily attendance that would be
17 allocated under the Foundation School Program for the student's
18 attendance at an open-enrollment charter school in accordance with
19 Section 12.106.

20 (k) Sections 12.107 and 12.128 apply as though funds under
21 this section were funds under Subchapter D, Chapter 12.

22 (l) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
23 beginning December 1, 2016, the agency shall prepare and deliver to
24 the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
25 representatives, and presiding officer of each standing
26 legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over public
27 education or economic development a report that:

1 (1) evaluates any adult education program operated
2 under a charter granted under this section; and

3 (2) makes recommendations regarding the abolition,
4 continuation, or expansion of the pilot program.

5 (m) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
6 administer the pilot program under this section. In adopting
7 rules, the commissioner may modify charter school requirements only
8 to the extent necessary for the administration of a charter school
9 under this section that provides for adult education.

10 SECTION 3. Section 42.003(a), Education Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (a) A student is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation
13 School Program if, on September 1 of the school year, the student:

14 (1) is 5 years of age or older and under 21 years of age
15 and has not graduated from high school, or is at least 21 years of
16 age and under 26 years of age and has been admitted by a school
17 district to complete the requirements for a high school diploma; or

18 (2) is at least 19 years of age and under 26 years of
19 age and is enrolled in an adult high school diploma and industry
20 certification charter school pilot program under Section 29.923
21 [~~29.259~~].

22 SECTION 4. (a) The heading to Subchapter H, Chapter 29,
23 Education Code, is repealed.

24 (b) Sections 7.021(b)(8), 7.102(c)(17), 29.251, 29.252,
25 29.255, 29.256, and 29.257, Education Code, are repealed.

26 SECTION 5. The Texas Education Agency shall establish the
27 grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 29, Education Code, as

1 added by this Act, not later than November 1, 2015.

2 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.