

By: Miller of Fort Bend

H.B. No. 3583

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a pilot program in certain school districts exempting
3 those districts from administering standard assessment instruments
4 and authorizing alternative assessment instruments.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 39.042 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 39.042. ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS PILOT
9 PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner by rule shall develop and implement
10 a pilot program under which participating school districts are
11 exempt from administering assessment instruments under Section
12 39.023 and administer alternative assessment instruments.

13 (b) A school district may apply to the commissioner to
14 participate in the pilot program established under this section.
15 The commissioner shall select for participation in the pilot
16 program one school district located in each of the regional
17 education service center areas. To be eligible to apply for the
18 pilot program under this section, a school district must have a
19 student enrollment of 70,000 or more. If a regional education
20 service center area does not have a school district with student
21 enrollment of 70,000 or more, the commissioner shall select the
22 district in the area with the highest student enrollment that has
23 applied for participation in the pilot program.

24 (c) A school district selected by the commissioner as a

1 participant in the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium under
2 Section 7.0561 may not participate in the pilot program established
3 under this section.

4 (d) The commissioner by rule shall adopt procedures to
5 designate alternative assessment instruments that may be used by a
6 school district participating in the pilot program to evaluate
7 student achievement. The procedures adopted by the commissioner
8 must provide that the following assessment instruments may be
9 administered by a participating school district as an alternative
10 assessment instrument:

- 11 (1) ACT Plan;
- 12 (2) Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS);
- 13 (3) National Assessment of Educational Progress
14 (NAEP);
- 15 (4) Program for International Student Assessment
16 (PISA);
- 17 (5) PSAT; and
- 18 (6) Texas Success Initiative (TSI Diagnostic Test).

19 (e) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the
20 commissioner by rule shall establish a grant program under which
21 participating school districts receive grants to implement the
22 pilot program to administer alternative assessment instruments.

23 (f) A school district that receives a grant under this
24 section may use grant funds to implement an alternative system of
25 student assessment using commissioner-approved alternative
26 assessment instruments.

27 (g) Each participating school district shall report to the

1 agency student performance on alternative assessment instruments
2 the district administers under the pilot program.

3 (h) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to
4 administer this section.

5 SECTION 2. The commissioner of education shall establish
6 the pilot program under Section 39.042, Education Code, as added by
7 this Act, not later than September 1, 2015.

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