

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 313

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to review and modification of the essential knowledge and skills of the required public school curriculum.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0025 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0025. REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. (a) The State Board of Education shall:

(1) conduct a review of the essential knowledge and skills adopted under Section 28.002; and

(2) modify the essential knowledge and skills to narrow the number and scope of standards and skills for each subject and grade level in accordance with this section.

(b) In complying with this section, the State Board of Education shall consider:

(1) for each subject and grade level, the time:

(A) a teacher would require to provide comprehensive instruction on a particular standard or skill; and

(B) a typical student would require to master a particular standard or skill;

(2) whether, in light of the consideration required by Subdivision (1), each essential knowledge and skill of a subject can be comprehensively taught within the number of school days required under Section 25.081, not including the number of days

1 required for testing;

2 (3) the college and career readiness standards, and  
3 whether inclusion of part of those standards in the essential  
4 knowledge and skills of a subject is possible; and

5 (4) whether an assessment instrument administered  
6 under Section 39.023 adequately assesses a particular standard or  
7 skill.

8 (c) The State Board of Education shall identify process  
9 skills for each subject in the essential knowledge and skills or use  
10 process skills already identified for each subject in the essential  
11 knowledge and skills to guide the board's modification of the  
12 essential knowledge and skills. The essential knowledge and skills  
13 of a subject must be based on process skills that enable students to  
14 engage with the content of the subject and attain a greater depth of  
15 understanding of content.

16 (d) In establishing or following an established timeline  
17 for reviewing and modifying the essential knowledge and skills, the  
18 State Board of Education shall ensure that the timeline reflects a  
19 priority to first review and modify a subject for which an  
20 end-of-course assessment instrument under Section 39.023(c) is  
21 administered before a subject for which an assessment instrument  
22 under Section 39.023(a) is administered. The board shall complete  
23 the review and modification of the essential knowledge and skills  
24 for each subject and grade level not later than September 1, 2018.

25 (e) Until the review and modification under this section is  
26 complete, the State Board of Education shall ensure that each  
27 assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023 beginning

1 with the 2015-2016 school year assesses only essential knowledge  
2 and skills identified as readiness standards by the agency.

3 (f) Following the review and modification under this  
4 section, the number and scope of the essential knowledge and skills  
5 for each subject and grade level may not be greater than the number  
6 and scope of the essential knowledge and skills identified as  
7 readiness standards by the agency for each subject and grade level  
8 as of January 1, 2015.

9 (g) This section expires September 1, 2018.

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