

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 451

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to eliminating certain state-required assessment  
3 instruments administered to public school students in certain  
4 grades.

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 reading, ~~[writing,~~ mathematics,  
11 ~~[social studies,~~ and science. Except as provided by Subsection  
12 (a-2), all students, other than students assessed under Subsection  
13 (b) or (1) or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

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

17 (2) reading, annually in grades three through eight;

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

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

21 ~~[(5)] science, in grades five and eight; and~~

22 (4) ~~[(6)]~~ any other subject and grade required by  
23 federal law.

24 SECTION 2. Section 39.023(a), Education Code, as effective

1 on or before September 1, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

2 (a) The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate  
3 criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess  
4 essential knowledge and skills in reading, [~~writing,~~] mathematics,  
5 [~~social studies,~~] and science. Except as provided by Subsection  
6 (a-2), all students, other than students assessed under Subsection  
7 (b) or (1) or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

8 (1) mathematics, in grades three and five without the  
9 aid of technology and in grade eight with the aid of technology on  
10 any assessment instrument that includes algebra;

11 (2) reading, in grades three, five, and eight; and

12 (3) [~~writing, including spelling and grammar, in~~  
13 ~~grades four and seven,~~

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

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

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

18 (a) The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate  
19 criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess  
20 essential knowledge and skills in reading, [~~writing,~~] mathematics,  
21 [~~social studies,~~] and science. Except as provided by Subsection  
22 (a-2), all students, other than students assessed under Subsection  
23 (b) or (1) or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

24 (1) mathematics, annually in grades three through  
25 seven without the aid of technology and in grade eight with the aid  
26 of technology on any assessment instrument that includes algebra;

27 (2) reading, annually in grades three through eight;

1           (3) [~~writing, including spelling and grammar, in~~  
2 ~~grades four and seven;~~  
3           ~~[(4) social studies, in grade eight,~~  
4           ~~[(5)]~~ science, in grades five and eight; and  
5           (4) ~~[(6)]~~ any other subject and grade required by  
6 federal law.

7           SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016  
8 school year.

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