

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 916

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the creation of a program to improve public education  
3 through partnerships between certain public school campuses and  
4 public universities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 39.106(f), Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter,  
9 if the commissioner determines that a campus for which an  
10 intervention is ordered under Subsection (a) is not fully  
11 implementing the campus intervention team's recommendations or  
12 targeted improvement plan or updated plan, the commissioner may:

13 (1) approve a university partner, as defined by  
14 Section 51.360, as a locally selected partner in operating or  
15 improving the campus; or

16 (2) order the reconstitution of the campus as provided  
17 by Section 39.107.

18 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 39.107, Education Code,  
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 39.107. RECONSTITUTION, REPURPOSING, UNIVERSITY  
21 PARTNERSHIP, ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT, AND CLOSURE.

22 SECTION 3. Sections 39.107(d), (e), and (e-2), Education  
23 Code, are amended to read as follows:

24 (d) If the commissioner determines that the campus is not

1 fully implementing the updated targeted improvement plan or if the  
2 students enrolled at the campus fail to demonstrate substantial  
3 improvement in the areas targeted by the updated plan, the  
4 commissioner may [~~order~~]:

5 (1) order repurposing of the campus under this  
6 section;

7 (2) order alternative management of the campus under  
8 this section; [~~or~~]

9 (3) approve a university partner, as defined by  
10 Section 51.360, as a locally selected partner in operating or  
11 improving the campus; or

12 (4) order closure of the campus.

13 (e) If a campus is considered to have an unacceptable  
14 performance rating for three consecutive school years after the  
15 campus is reconstituted under Subsection (a), the commissioner,  
16 subject to Subsection (e-1) or (e-2), shall [~~order~~]:

17 (1) order repurposing of the campus under this  
18 section;

19 (2) order alternative management of the campus under  
20 this section; [~~or~~]

21 (3) approve a university partner, as defined by  
22 Section 51.360, as a locally selected partner in operating or  
23 improving the campus; or

24 (4) order closure of the campus.

25 (e-2) For purposes of this subsection, "parent" has the  
26 meaning assigned by Section 12.051. If the commissioner is  
27 presented, in the time and manner specified by commissioner rule, a

1 written petition signed by the parents of a majority of the students  
 2 enrolled at a campus to which Subsection (e) applies, specifying  
 3 the action described by Subsection (e)(1), (2), [~~or~~] (3), or (4)  
 4 that the parents request the commissioner to order or approve, the  
 5 commissioner shall, except as otherwise authorized by this  
 6 subsection, order or approve the specific action requested. If the  
 7 board of trustees of the school district in which the campus is  
 8 located presents to the commissioner, in the time and manner  
 9 specified by commissioner rule, a written request that the  
 10 commissioner order or approve specific action authorized under  
 11 Subsection (e) other than the specific action requested in the  
 12 parents' petition and a written explanation of the basis for the  
 13 board's request, the commissioner may order or approve the action  
 14 requested by the board of trustees.

15 SECTION 4. Subchapter G, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
 16 amended by adding Section 51.360 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 51.360. SCHOOL TURNAROUND EDUCATION PROGRAM:  
 18 UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS (STEP UP). (a) The School Turnaround  
 19 Education Program: University Partnerships (STEP UP) is created.

20 (b) The purpose of the program is to raise student  
 21 performance at public school campuses through partnerships with  
 22 universities. The program offers an opportunity to avoid school  
 23 reconstitution, repurposing, alternative management, or closure.

24 (c) In this section:

25 (1) "University partner" means each university system  
 26 and Midwestern State University, Stephen F. Austin State  
 27 University, Texas Southern University, and Texas Woman's

1 University.

2 (2) "University system" has the meaning assigned by  
3 Section 61.003.

4 (d) Each university partner shall establish a task force for  
5 the improvement of public school campuses.

6 (e) The task force shall conduct research and construct  
7 models to identify best practices for school improvement to assist  
8 school districts in this state with more effective management and  
9 operation of campuses.

10 (f) A school district board of trustees, on behalf of a  
11 campus, and a university partner that it selects may enter into a  
12 contract for school improvement initiatives or for a local  
13 partnership as approved by the commissioner of education under  
14 Section 39.106 or 39.107.

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