

By: Garcia

S.B. No. 1482

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to alternative education programs for middle school students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.081, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(d) For purposes of this section, "student at risk of dropping out of school" includes each student who is under 26 years of age and who:

(1) was not advanced from one grade level to the next for one or more school years;

(2) if the student is in grade 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12, did not maintain an average equivalent to 70 on a scale of 100 in two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum during a semester in the preceding or current school year or is not maintaining such an average in two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum in the current semester;

(3) did not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered to the student under Subchapter B, Chapter 39, and who has not in the previous or current school year subsequently performed on that instrument or another appropriate instrument at a level equal to at least 110 percent of the level of satisfactory performance on that instrument;

1           (4) if the student is in prekindergarten,  
2 kindergarten, or grade 1, 2, or 3, did not perform satisfactorily on  
3 a readiness test or assessment instrument administered during the  
4 current school year;

5           (5) is pregnant or is a parent;

6           (6) has been placed in an alternative education  
7 program in accordance with Section 37.006 during the preceding or  
8 current school year;

9           (7) has been expelled in accordance with Section  
10 37.007 during the preceding or current school year;

11           (8) is currently on parole, probation, deferred  
12 prosecution, or other conditional release;

13           (9) was previously reported through the Public  
14 Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to have dropped out  
15 of school;

16           (10) is a student of limited English proficiency, as  
17 defined by Section 29.052;

18           (11) is in the custody or care of the Department of  
19 Protective and Regulatory Services or has, during the current  
20 school year, been referred to the department by a school official,  
21 officer of the juvenile court, or law enforcement official;

22           (12) is homeless, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section  
23 11302, and its subsequent amendments; or

24           (13) resided in the preceding school year or resides  
25 in the current school year in a residential placement facility in  
26 the district, including a detention facility, substance abuse  
27 treatment facility, emergency shelter, psychiatric hospital,

1 halfway house, or foster group home.

2 (e-1) Each school district may provide alternative  
3 education programs for students at risk of dropping out of school  
4 who are in grade 6, 7, or 8. The district may partner with a private  
5 or public community-based organization to assist in providing  
6 expanded learning opportunities for students at risk of dropping  
7 out. A program under this subsection must educate students about  
8 each endorsement described by Section 28.025(c-1) and  
9 postsecondary education and career opportunities by:

10 (1) including experiential, project-based learning  
11 activities related to the endorsements; and

12 (2) incorporating volunteer business and industry  
13 mentors from the local community.

14 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016  
15 school year.

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