

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2051

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the study of public education performance.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 2, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 9 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 9. CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Sec. 9.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Center for Performance Information for Public Education Board.

(2) "Center" means the Center for Performance Information for Public Education.

Sec. 9.002. CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION. (a) The Center for Performance Information for Public Education is created as an independent policy center.

(b) The center shall represent business, finance, public policy, education, and other interests considered appropriate by the center.

(c) In performing the duties provided by this chapter, the center shall:

(1) work directly with the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and members of the legislature; and

(2) work with the agency and other state agencies, regional education service centers, school districts, and

1 open-enrollment charter schools.

2 Sec. 9.003. CENTER DUTIES. (a) The center shall promote  
3 the use of successful methods to increase performance at the school  
4 district and campus levels.

5 (b) The center shall evaluate and rank the performance of  
6 each school district, campus, and open-enrollment charter school  
7 and provide a progress report and recommendations each year to:

8 (1) the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the  
9 house of representatives, Legislative Budget Board, commissioner,  
10 and State Board of Education; and

11 (2) districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter  
12 schools.

13 (c) The center may assist the legislature with policy  
14 studies related to the center's duties. The center may participate  
15 in collaborative studies with a foundation or organization inside  
16 or outside this state related to the center's duties.

17 (d) The center shall seek information, data, and best  
18 practices from state, regional, and national sources to use in  
19 performing the center's duties provided by this chapter.

20 (e) The center may contract with independent experts,  
21 academic scholars, and other appropriate professionals in  
22 performing the center's duties provided by this chapter.

23 Sec. 9.004. BOARD. (a) The Center for Performance  
24 Information for Public Education Board is created as the primary  
25 policy-making body of the center.

26 (b) The board is composed of three members. The governor,  
27 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives

1 shall each appoint one member. The board members appointed under  
2 this section must include individuals in the private sector who  
3 have an interest in improving performance in public education and  
4 significant experience in organizational management, finance, or  
5 business. A board member may not:

6 (1) be a member of the board of trustees or an employee  
7 of a school district or a member of the governing body or an  
8 employee of or a charter holder of a charter for an open-enrollment  
9 charter school; or

10 (2) have a financial relationship with a vendor or  
11 contractor who provides goods or services to any part of the public  
12 education system of this state.

13 (c) Board members serve four-year terms.

14 (d) Board members shall annually elect one member as the  
15 presiding officer.

16 (e) A board member may not receive a salary for services as a  
17 board member but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in  
18 attending board meetings.

19 Sec. 9.005. BOARD DUTIES. (a) The board shall study the  
20 elements of an effective and efficient system of public free  
21 schools and make recommendations to:

22 (1) improve the performance of the public education  
23 system to meet the demands of the current century;

24 (2) improve the state's ability to compete  
25 educationally and economically with other states and countries; and

26 (3) provide the public with information on public  
27 education performance.

1       (b) The board shall provide a report of the board's study  
2 and recommendations under Subsection (a) to:

3               (1) the Legislative Budget Board at least once each  
4 year; and

5               (2) the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the  
6 house of representatives, legislature, commissioner, and State  
7 Board of Education before the convening of each regular legislative  
8 session.

9       Sec. 9.006. SUPPORT FOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES. (a) State  
10 agencies, regional education service centers, school districts,  
11 and open-enrollment charter schools shall fully cooperate with and  
12 assist the center at the board's request.

13       (b) Data and information necessary to perform the center's  
14 duties under this chapter shall be provided at the board's request  
15 in a timely manner and at minimal cost. The board and center shall  
16 require confidentiality and other security measures for student  
17 data and information consistent with the Family Educational Rights  
18 and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g).

19       Sec. 9.007. FUNDING. The center may be funded by donations,  
20 grants, and legislative appropriations.

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