

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 210

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 29.153(a-1), (c), and (f), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a-1) A district shall offer prekindergarten classes to any child [~~if the district identifies 15 or more children~~] who is [~~are eligible under Subsection (b) and are~~] at least four years of age.

A school district may offer prekindergarten classes if the district identifies 15 or more [~~eligible~~] children who are eligible under Subsection (b)(1) [~~at least three years of age~~]. A district may not charge tuition for a prekindergarten class offered under this section.

(c) A prekindergarten class under this section shall be operated on a full-day [~~half-day~~] basis. A district is not required to provide transportation for a prekindergarten class, but transportation, if provided, is included for funding purposes as part of the regular transportation system.

(f) A child who is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class under Subsection (b)(1)(D) or (E) [~~(b)(4) or (5)~~] remains eligible for enrollment if the child's parent leaves the armed forces, or is no longer on active duty, after the child begins a prekindergarten class.

1 SECTION 2. Section 29.153(b), Education Code, as amended by
2 H.B. No. 357, Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017,
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (b) A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten
5 class under this section if the child is:

6 (1) at least three years of age and:

7 (A) [~~(1)~~] is unable to speak and comprehend the
8 English language;

9 (B) [~~(2)~~] is educationally disadvantaged;

10 (C) [~~(3)~~] is a homeless child, as defined by 42
11 U.S.C. Section 11434a, regardless of the residence of the child, of
12 either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other
13 person having lawful control of the child;

14 (D) [~~(4)~~] is the child of an active duty member
15 of the armed forces of the United States, including the state
16 military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is
17 ordered to active duty by proper authority;

18 (E) [~~(5)~~] is the child of a member of the armed
19 forces of the United States, including the state military forces or
20 a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed
21 while serving on active duty;

22 (F) [~~(6)~~] is or ever has been in the
23 conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services
24 following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201,
25 Family Code; or

26 (G) [~~(7)~~] is the child of a person eligible for
27 the Star of Texas Award as:

- 1 (i) [~~(A)~~] a peace officer under Section
2 3106.002, Government Code;
- 3 (ii) [~~(B)~~] a firefighter under Section
4 3106.003, Government Code; or
- 5 (iii) [~~(C)~~] an emergency medical first
6 responder under Section 3106.004, Government Code; or
- 7 (2) at least four years of age.

8 SECTION 3. Section 29.1531(a), Education Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

- 10 (a) A school district may offer on a tuition basis or use
11 district funds to provide[+
12 [~~(1) an additional half-day of prekindergarten~~
13 ~~classes to children eligible for classes under Section 29.153; and~~
14 [~~(2)~~] half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes
15 to children not eligible for classes under Section 29.153.

16 SECTION 4. Section 29.1532(c), Education Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

- 18 (c) A school district that offers prekindergarten classes,
19 including a high quality prekindergarten program class under
20 Subchapter E-1, shall include the following information in the
21 district's Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS)
22 report:

- 23 (1) demographic information, as determined by the
24 commissioner, on students enrolled in district and campus
25 prekindergarten classes, including the number of students who are
26 eligible for classes under Section 29.153(b)(1) or (f) [~~29.153~~];
27 (2) the numbers of half-day and full-day

1 prekindergarten classes offered by the district and campus;

2 (3) the sources of funding for the prekindergarten
3 classes;

4 (4) the class size and ratio of instructional staff to
5 students for each prekindergarten program class offered by the
6 district and campus;

7 (5) if the district elects to administer an assessment
8 instrument to students enrolled in district and campus
9 prekindergarten program classes, a description and the results of
10 each type of assessment instrument; and

11 (6) curricula used in the district's prekindergarten
12 program classes.

13 SECTION 5. Section 29.166(a), Education Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (a) A school district is eligible for full-day [~~half-day~~]
16 funding under the Foundation School Program for each student who
17 satisfies eligibility requirements under Section 29.153(b) and who
18 is enrolled in a program class.

19 SECTION 6. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
20 school year.

21 SECTION 7. 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 on the 91st day after the last day of the
26 legislative session.