

By: VanDeaver

H.B. No. 515

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to eliminating certain state-required assessment
3 instruments and certain end-of-course assessment instruments not
4 required by federal law.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 39.023(a), Education Code, as effective
7 September 1, 2017, 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 and

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 2. Section 39.023(c), Education Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (c) The agency shall also adopt end-of-course assessment
4 instruments for secondary-level courses in reading, mathematics,
5 and science only as necessary to comply with the Every Student
6 Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.) to be administered
7 only as necessary to meet the minimum requirements of that Act
8 ~~[Algebra I, biology, English I, English II, and United States~~
9 ~~history. The Algebra I end-of-course assessment instrument must be~~
10 ~~administered with the aid of technology. The English I and English~~
11 ~~II end-of-course assessment instruments must each assess essential~~
12 ~~knowledge and skills in both reading and writing in the same~~
13 ~~assessment instrument and must provide a single score]. A school~~
14 district shall comply with State Board of Education rules regarding
15 administration of the assessment instruments adopted under ~~[listed~~
16 ~~in]~~ this subsection. If a student is in a special education program
17 under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, the student's admission, review,
18 and dismissal committee shall determine whether any allowable
19 modification is necessary in administering to the student an
20 assessment instrument required under this subsection. The State
21 Board of Education shall administer the assessment instruments.
22 ~~[The State Board of Education shall adopt a schedule for the~~
23 ~~administration of end-of-course assessment instruments that~~
24 ~~complies with the requirements of Subsection (c-3).]~~

25 SECTION 3. Section 39.023(c-3), Education Code, as
26 effective September 1, 2017, is amended to read as follows:

27 (c-3) The State Board of Education, with input from school

1 districts, shall adopt [~~In adopting~~] a schedule for the
2 administration of assessment instruments under this section that
3 minimizes the disruption of classroom instruction [~~, the State~~
4 ~~Board of Education shall require.~~

5 [~~(1) assessment instruments administered under~~
6 ~~Subsection (a) to be administered on a schedule so that the first~~
7 ~~assessment instrument is administered at least two weeks later than~~
8 ~~the date on which the first assessment instrument was administered~~
9 ~~under Subsection (a) during the 2006-2007 school year; and~~

10 [~~(2) the spring administration of end-of-course~~
11 ~~assessment instruments under Subsection (c) to occur in each school~~
12 ~~district not earlier than the first full week in May, except that~~
13 ~~the spring administration of the end-of-course assessment~~
14 ~~instruments in English I and English II must be permitted to occur~~
15 ~~at an earlier date].~~

16 SECTION 4. Section 39.023, Education Code, is amended by
17 adding Subsection (q) to read as follows:

18 (q) Notwithstanding any provision of this section or other
19 law, if changes made to the Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C.
20 Section 6301 et seq.) reduce the number or frequency of assessment
21 instruments required to be administered to students, the State
22 Board of Education shall adopt rules reducing the number or
23 frequency of assessment instruments administered to students under
24 state law, and the commissioner shall ensure that students are not
25 assessed in subject areas or in grades that are no longer required
26 to meet the minimum requirements of that Act.

27 SECTION 5. Section 39.203(c), Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (c) In addition to the distinction designations described
3 by Subsections (a) and (b), a campus that satisfies the criteria
4 developed under Section 39.204 shall be awarded a distinction
5 designation by the commissioner for outstanding performance in
6 academic achievement in reading [~~English language arts~~],
7 mathematics, or science [~~, or social studies~~].

8 SECTION 6. Section 39.02301, Education Code, is repealed.

9 SECTION 7. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
10 school year.

11 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.