

By: Rodriguez of Bexar

H.B. No. 1540

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to counseling regarding postsecondary education for public high school students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.007(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) During the first school year a student is enrolled in a high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment charter school, and again during each year of a student's enrollment in high school or at the high school level, a school counselor shall provide information about postsecondary education to the student and the student's parent or guardian. The information must include information regarding:

(1) the importance of postsecondary education;

(2) the advantages of earning an endorsement and a performance acknowledgment and completing the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program under Section 28.025;

(3) the disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of taking courses leading to a high school diploma;

(4) financial aid eligibility;

(5) instruction on how to apply for federal financial aid;

1           (6) the center for financial aid information  
2 established under Section 61.0776;

3           (7) the automatic admission of certain students to  
4 general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section  
5 51.803;

6           (8) the eligibility and academic performance  
7 requirements for the TEXAS Grant as provided by Subchapter M,  
8 Chapter 56; ~~and~~

9           (9) the availability of programs in the district under  
10 which a student may earn college credit, including advanced  
11 placement programs, dual credit programs, joint high school and  
12 college credit programs, and international baccalaureate programs;  
13 and

14           (10) the importance of selecting a major or field of  
15 study before, or as soon as possible after, enrollment at a  
16 postsecondary educational institution and the potential  
17 consequences of delaying that decision, particularly if the student  
18 intends to transfer between postsecondary educational  
19 institutions.

20       SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018  
21 school year.

22       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.