By: Parker

H.B. No. 2014

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to designation of mathematics innovation zones by the

3 commissioner of education and to the establishment of pay for

4 success programs to provide necessary funding.

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

6   SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is

7 amended by adding Section 28.020 to read as follows:

8   Sec. 28.020. MATHEMATICS INNOVATION ZONES. (a) The

9 commissioner may:

10   (1) on application of a school district or

11 open-enrollment charter school, designate a campus of the district

12 or school as a mathematics innovation zone; and

13   (2) from funds appropriated or donated for purposes of

14 this section, award a grant to support implementation of innovative

15 mathematics instruction at the campus in accordance with this

16 section.

17   (b) A campus designated as a mathematics innovation zone

18 must:

19   (1) implement with fidelity an innovative mathematics

20 instructional program approved by the commissioner for purposes of

21 this section that addresses the essential knowledge and skills of

22 the mathematics curriculum required by Section 28.002;

23   (2) comply with objectives, metrics, and other

24 mathematics innovation zone requirements imposed by the

1 commissioner through rules adopted under Subsection (g); and

2 (3) provide all data relating to the mathematics

3 innovation zone requested by the agency.

4 (c) A campus designated as a mathematics innovation zone is

5 not subject to interventions under the state accountability system

6 described by Section 39.107(a) or (e) for the first two years of the

7 designation, provided that the campus implements the instructional

8 program with fidelity and complies with each mathematics innovation

9 zone requirement to the satisfaction of the commissioner. The

10 period that a campus is exempt from interventions as provided by

11 this subsection is not:

12 (1) included in calculating consecutive school years

13 under Section 39.107(a) or (e); or

14 (2) considered a break in consecutive school years of

15 unacceptable ratings for purposes of determining the need for

16 intervention under Section 39.107(a) or (e).

17 (d) The commissioner may revoke designation of a campus as a

18 mathematics innovation zone and suspend associated grant funding if

19 the commissioner determines that the campus has failed to implement

20 the instructional program with fidelity or comply with any

21 requirement imposed under this section.

22 (e) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may

23 use a pay for success program approved by the commissioner under

24 Section 44.904 to pay costs associated with designation of a campus

25 as a mathematics innovation zone.

26 (f) The commissioner may accept gifts, grants, or donations

27 from any public or private source for purposes of this section.

1   (g)   The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to

2 administer this section.

3   (h)   A decision or determination by the commissioner under

4 this section is final and may not be appealed.

5   SECTION 2.   Subchapter Z, Chapter 44, Education Code, is

6 amended by adding Section 44.904 to read as follows:

7   Sec. 44.904.   PAY FOR SUCCESS PROGRAMS.   (a)   In this

8 section, "pay for success program" means a program involving

9 private financing under which payments are dependent on achievement

10 of measurable outcomes.

11   (b)   The commissioner may:

12   (1)   structure and approve pay for success programs for

13 use by a school district or open-enrollment charter school;

14   (2)   evaluate and approve the following participants in

15 a pay for success program:

16   (A)   a private investor;

17   (B)   an education service provider; and

18   (C)   a third-party evaluator; and

19   (3)   require an approved participant to comply with the

20 objectives, metrics, and other pay for success program requirements

21 prescribed by the commissioner.

22   (c)   In evaluating a potential participant under Subsection

23 (b)(2), the commissioner may:

24   (1)   verify the availability and liquidity of the

25 investment funds of a private investor;

26   (2)   evaluate the credentials and effectiveness of an

27 education service provider; and

1   (3) evaluate the credentials and independence of a
2   third-party evaluator.
3   (d) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district or
4   open-enrollment charter school that uses a pay for success program
5   approved by the commissioner is not subject to state procurement
6   requirements that would otherwise apply to the activity funded
7   through the program.
8   (e) The commissioner, the agency, and agency employees are
9   immune from liability for actions associated with the structuring,
10   approval, or implementation of a pay for success program.
11   (f) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
12   implement this section.
13   SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.