

By: Howard

H.B. No. 2155

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a college readiness memorandum of understanding between a school district and a public institution of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0141 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0141. COLLEGE READINESS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Each school district shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with at least one institution of higher education to coordinate efforts in ensuring students are prepared for postsecondary education opportunities. A memorandum of understanding must:

(1) provide for joint professional development opportunities for school counselors and academic advisors to promote collaboration and support the creation of common practices and terminology relating to college readiness;

(2) identify the pathways between the endorsements under Section 28.025(c-1) that are available to students in the district and degree programs and fields of study relating to those endorsements that are available at the institution;

(3) develop tools based on the pathways identified under Subdivision (2) for school counselors and academic advisors

1 to assist students in selecting a suitable program of study; and  
2 (4) identify opportunities to increase the cost  
3 efficiency and coordination of related programs in areas that  
4 include the following:

- 5 (A) technology;  
6 (B) facilities and equipment;  
7 (C) dual credit course staffing and  
8 certification; and  
9 (D) transportation.

10 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018  
11 school year.

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