

AN ACT

relating to school counselors in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.007, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) 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 availability of education and training
15 vouchers and tuition and fee waivers to attend an institution of
16 higher education as provided by Section 54.366 for a student who is
17 or was previously in the conservatorship of the Department of
18 Family and Protective Services.

19 (b-1) When providing information under Subsection (b)(10),
20 the school counselor must report to the student and the student's
21 parent or guardian the number of times the counselor has provided
22 the information to the student.

23 SECTION 2. Section 39.306, Education Code, is amended by
24 adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

25 (d-1) The report must also include the number of school
26 counselors providing counseling services at each campus.

27 SECTION 3. Section 42.006, Education Code, is amended by

1 adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

2 (a-2) The commissioner by rule shall require each school
3 district and open-enrollment charter school to report through the
4 Public Education Information Management System information
5 regarding the availability of school counselors at each campus.
6 The commissioner's rules shall require a district or school to
7 report the number of full-time equivalent school counselors
8 providing counseling services at a campus. For purposes of this
9 subsection, "full-time equivalent school counselor" means 40 hours
10 of counseling services a week. The agency shall maintain the
11 information provided in accordance with this subsection.

12 SECTION 4. 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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 490 passed the Senate on March 29, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 2; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 27, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 490 passed the House, with amendment, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 112, Nays 34, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor