

By: Huffines

S.B. No. 610

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the state virtual school network.

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

SECTION 1. Section 30A.101(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation is eligible to act as a course provider under this chapter only if the nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation:

(1) complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination;

(2) demonstrates financial solvency; and

(3) provides evidence of prior successful experience offering online courses to kindergarten or elementary, middle, or high school students, with demonstrated student success in course completion and performance, as determined by the commissioner.

SECTION 2. Section 30A.104(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A course offered through the state virtual school network must:

(1) be in a specific subject that is part of the required curriculum under Section 28.002(a);

(2) be aligned with the essential knowledge and skills identified under Section 28.002(c) for a grade level at or above kindergarten [~~grade level three~~]; and

(3) be the equivalent in instructional rigor and scope to a course that is provided in a traditional classroom setting during:

(A) a semester of 90 instructional days; and

(B) a school day that meets the minimum length of a school day required under Section 25.082.

SECTION 3. Section 30A.151(f), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f) For a full-time electronic course program offered through the state virtual school network for a grade level at or above kindergarten [~~grade level three~~] but not above grade level eight, a school district or open-enrollment charter school is entitled to receive federal, state, and local funding for a student enrolled in the program in an amount equal to the funding the district or school would otherwise receive for a student enrolled in the district or school. The district or school may calculate the average daily attendance of a student enrolled in the program based on:

(1) hours of contact with the student;

(2) the student's successful completion of a course;

or

(3) a method approved by the commissioner.

SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.