

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1699

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a model framework to address certain barriers to student learning.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 38.034 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.034. MODEL FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS CERTAIN BARRIERS TO STUDENT LEARNING. (a) The agency, in coordination with the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Juvenile Justice, shall develop a model framework to assist school districts in identifying and coordinating, to the greatest extent possible, an array of existing school-based and community-based programs and resources to maximize the individual and collective impact of those programs and resources for the purposes of:

(1) addressing nonacademic barriers to student learning, including for students in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29; and

(2) reducing the use of exclusionary discipline practices.

(b) The model framework developed under Subsection (a) may include programs and resources, including strategies, addressing:

(1) skills related to managing emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and making responsible decisions;

- 1           (2) positive school climate;
- 2           (3) positive behavior strategies;
- 3           (4) student physical and mental health, including the  
4 effects of childhood trauma and adverse experiences on development  
5 and behavior;
- 6           (5) substance abuse prevention and intervention;
- 7           (6) bullying prevention and intervention;
- 8           (7) suicide prevention;
- 9           (8) truancy prevention and intervention;
- 10          (9) delinquency prevention and intervention; and
- 11          (10) dropout prevention.

12          (c) The agency, in coordination with regional education  
13 service centers, shall provide school districts with training and  
14 technical assistance on:

15           (1) the use of the model framework developed under  
16 Subsection (a); and

17           (2) the use of developmentally appropriate,  
18 evidence-based strategies in reducing the use of exclusionary  
19 discipline practices in prekindergarten programs and special  
20 education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, and in grades 1  
21 through 12, including strategies that promote:

22           (A) skills related to managing emotions,  
23 establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and making  
24 responsible decisions;

25           (B) school-wide positive behavioral  
26 interventions and supports;

27           (C) restorative discipline practices; and

1                    (D) trauma-informed practices.

2            (d) The agency shall coordinate with the Texas Higher  
3 Education Coordinating Board to identify institutions of higher  
4 education and private or independent institutions of higher  
5 education, as those terms are defined under Section 61.003, with  
6 expertise in the strategies described by Subsection (c)(2). To the  
7 greatest extent possible, the agency shall partner with those  
8 institutions to provide training, technical assistance, and  
9 information to school districts on using the programs and  
10 resources, including strategies, identified under the model  
11 framework.

12           (e) The agency shall identify best practices in addressing  
13 nonacademic barriers to learning that are implemented in school  
14 districts and communities in this state.

15           (f) The agency shall develop and implement a plan to  
16 facilitate peer-to-peer learning among school districts and  
17 community-based providers and to replicate the best practices  
18 described by Subsection (e).

19           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.