

By: West

S.B. No. 2131

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requirements for providing postsecondary education counseling to high school students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.007, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 33.007. COUNSELING REGARDING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

(a) Each school counselor at an elementary, middle, or junior high school, including an open-enrollment charter school offering those grades, shall advise students and their parents or guardians regarding the importance of postsecondary education, coursework designed to prepare students for postsecondary education, and financial aid availability and requirements.

(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 accessible through the database of required lower division courses for specific majors, as well as information regarding:

(1) the importance of postsecondary education;

(2) the advantages of earning an endorsement and a

1 performance acknowledgment and completing the distinguished level  
2 of achievement under the foundation high school program under  
3 Section 28.025;

4 (3) the disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for  
5 a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of  
6 taking courses leading to a high school diploma;

7 (4) financial aid eligibility;

8 (5) instruction on how to apply for federal financial  
9 aid;

10 (6) the center for financial aid information  
11 established under Section 61.0776;

12 (7) the automatic admission of certain students to  
13 general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section  
14 51.803;

15 (8) the eligibility and academic performance  
16 requirements for the TEXAS Grant as provided by Subchapter M,  
17 Chapter 56; ~~and~~

18 (9) the availability of advanced academic programs in  
19 the district under which a student may earn college credit,  
20 including advanced placement programs~~[, dual credit programs,~~  
21 ~~joint high school and college credit programs,~~] and international  
22 baccalaureate programs; and

23 (10) the availability of dual credit and joint high  
24 school and college credit programs, including the types of dual  
25 credit offered (core curriculum courses versus career and technical  
26 education courses) and the transferability and application of dual  
27 credit offerings to regional junior or community colleges, public

1 technical colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.

2 (c) Schools and districts shall post on their website and  
3 update annually the information articulated in Subsection (b)(10)  
4 related to dual credit and joint high school and college credit  
5 programs.

6 (d) Each school district and open-enrollment charter  
7 school, in consultation with school counselors employed by the  
8 district or school, shall develop a procedure for documenting on  
9 each student's transcript any postsecondary advising services  
10 provided to the student under this section, including the name of  
11 the person or counseling provider who provided the services.

12 (e) [~~(c)~~] At the beginning of grades 10 and 11, a school  
13 counselor certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator  
14 Certification shall explain the requirements of automatic  
15 admission to a general academic teaching institution under Section  
16 51.803 to each student enrolled in a high school or at the high  
17 school level in an open-enrollment charter school who has a grade  
18 point average in the top 25 percent of the student's high school  
19 class.

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