

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 by amending subsection (b), and adding subsections (c) and (d), 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;

1 (2) the advantages of earning an endorsement and a
2 performance acknowledgment and completing the distinguished level
3 of achievement under the foundation high school program under
4 Section 28.025;

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

8 (4) financial aid eligibility;

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

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

13 (7) the automatic admission of certain students to
14 general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section
15 51.803;

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

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

24 (10) the availability of dual credit and joint high
25 school and college credit programs, including the types of dual
26 credit offered (core curriculum courses vs. career and technical
27 education courses) and the transferability and application of dual

1 credit offerings to regional junior or community colleges, public
2 technical colleges, and 4-year colleges and universities.

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

6 (d) School counselors shall note on each student's
7 transcript verification of advising, giving the date and time of
8 advising. Counselors shall also note whether advising was provided
9 by Advise Texas or some other counseling provider.

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

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