86R10933 MM-F

By:  Lucio III H.B. No. 2818

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an Internet online dropout recovery education program for students at risk of dropping out of school.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 29.081, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (e-2) and adding Subsection (f-1) to read as follows:

(e-2)  An Internet online dropout recovery education program must:

(1)  include as a part of its curriculum credentials, certifications, or other course offerings that relate directly to employment opportunities in the state;

(2)  employ as faculty and administrators persons with baccalaureate or advanced degrees;

(3)  provide an academic coach and local advocate for each student;

(4)  use an individual learning plan to monitor each student's progress;

(5)  [~~establish satisfactory requirements for the monthly progress of students according to standards set by the commissioner;~~

[~~(6)~~]  provide a monthly report to the student's school district regarding the student's progress;

(6) [~~(7)~~]  perform satisfactorily according to performance indicators and accountability standards adopted for alternative education programs by the commissioner; and

(7) [~~(8)~~]  comply with this title and rules adopted under this title except as otherwise provided by this subsection.

(f-1)  An Internet online dropout recovery education program is not subject to commissioner rules applicable to an optional flexible school day program under Section 29.0822 regarding minutes of instruction and calculation of average daily attendance. For the purposes of calculating attendance for an Internet online dropout recovery education program, the commissioner shall:

(1)  consider a student to be scheduled for and receiving instruction for 55 minutes per day for each course taken for purposes of determining whether the student satisfies the requirements of half-day or full-day enrollment;

(2)  consider a student who is enrolled for five semester courses to be in attendance for each day of instruction in the reporting period for purposes of establishing the student's daily attendance;

(3)  calculate the final average daily attendance of the program based on successful student completion of semester courses in which students were enrolled using course completion data reported by the district;

(4)  adjust the average daily attendance based on students' failure to complete semester courses; and

(5)  adjust the amount of funding provided under the Foundation School Program during the following school year based on any adjustment made under Subdivision (4).

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.