86R11227 MP-F

By:  Seliger S.B. No. 996

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eliminating the state-required assessment instrument in social studies and the United States history end-of-course assessment instrument.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 39.023(a) and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess essential knowledge and skills in reading, writing, mathematics, [~~social studies,~~] and science. Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), all students, other than students assessed under Subsection (b) or (l) or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

(1)  mathematics, annually in grades three through seven without the aid of technology and in grade eight with the aid of technology on any assessment instrument that includes algebra;

(2)  reading, annually in grades three through eight;

(3)  writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades four and seven;

(4)  [~~social studies, in grade eight;~~

[~~(5)~~]  science, in grades five and eight; and

(5) [~~(6)~~]  any other subject and grade required by federal law.

(c)  The agency shall also adopt end-of-course assessment instruments for secondary-level courses in Algebra I, biology, English I, and English II [~~, and United States history~~]. The Algebra I end-of-course assessment instrument must be administered with the aid of technology. The English I and English II end-of-course assessment instruments must each assess essential knowledge and skills in both reading and writing in the same assessment instrument and must provide a single score. A school district shall comply with State Board of Education rules regarding administration of the assessment instruments listed in this subsection. If a student is in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee shall determine whether any allowable modification is necessary in administering to the student an assessment instrument required under this subsection. The State Board of Education shall administer the assessment instruments. The State Board of Education shall adopt a schedule for the administration of end-of-course assessment instruments that complies with the requirements of Subsection (c-3).

SECTION 2.  Section 39.203(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  In addition to the distinction designations described by Subsections (a) and (b), a campus that satisfies the criteria developed under Section 39.204 shall be awarded a distinction designation by the commissioner for outstanding performance in academic achievement in English language arts, mathematics, or science[~~, or social studies~~].

SECTION 3.  This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

SECTION 4.  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 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.