

By: Krause

H.B. No. 228

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to accountability and standards for districts of innovation.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12A.001, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) A school district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation only if:

(1) the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance; and

(2) the district satisfies eligibility standards adopted by the commissioner under Subsection (b-1).

(b-1) In addition to the eligibility standard imposed under Subsection (b)(1), the commissioner shall adopt objective eligibility standards applicable to a school district seeking designation as a district of innovation, including academic performance eligibility standards and financial accountability eligibility standards. The agency shall post the eligibility standards adopted under this subsection on the agency's Internet website.

SECTION 2. Section 12A.003(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A local innovation plan must:

1           (1) provide for a comprehensive educational program  
2 for the district, which program may include:

3                   (A) innovative curriculum, instructional  
4 methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus  
5 governance, and parental involvement;

6                   (B) modifications to the school day or year;

7                   (C) provisions regarding the district budget and  
8 sustainable program funding;

9                   (D) accountability and assessment measures that  
10 exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and

11                   (E) any other innovations prescribed by the board  
12 of trustees; ~~and~~

13           (2) identify requirements imposed by this code that  
14 inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be  
15 exempted on adoption of the plan, subject to Section 12A.004; and

16                   (3) establish performance objectives for the district  
17 under the plan.

18           SECTION 3. The heading to Section 12A.005, Education Code,  
19 is amended to read as follows:

20           Sec. 12A.005. ADOPTION OF LOCAL INNOVATION PLAN;  
21 COMMISSIONER DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY ~~[APPROVAL]~~.

22           SECTION 4. Sections 12A.005(a) and (c), Education Code, are  
23 amended to read as follows:

24           (a) The board of trustees may not vote on adoption of a  
25 proposed local innovation plan unless:

26                   (1) the final version of the proposed plan has been  
27 available on the district's Internet website for at least 30 days;

1           (2) the board of trustees has notified the  
2 commissioner of the board's intention to vote on adoption of the  
3 proposed plan; ~~and~~

4           (3) the district-level committee established under  
5 Section 11.251 has held a public meeting to consider the final  
6 version of the proposed plan and has approved the plan by a majority  
7 vote of the committee members, provided that the meeting required  
8 by this subdivision may occur immediately before and on the same  
9 date as the meeting at which the board intends to vote on adoption  
10 of the proposed plan; and

11           (4) the commissioner has notified the board that the  
12 district satisfies all eligibility standards adopted by the  
13 commissioner under Section 12A.001.

14           (c) On adoption of a local innovation plan, the district:

15           (1) is designated as a district of innovation under  
16 this chapter for the term specified in the plan, subject to Section  
17 12A.006;

18           (2) shall begin operation in accordance with the plan;  
19 ~~and~~

20           (3) is exempt from state requirements identified under  
21 Section 12A.003(b)(2); and

22           (4) shall notify the commissioner of the adoption of  
23 the plan.

24           SECTION 5. Section 12A.008(a), Education Code, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26           (a) The commissioner may terminate a district's designation  
27 as a district of innovation if the district ~~receives~~ for two

1 consecutive school years:

2 (1) receives an unacceptable academic performance  
3 rating under Section 39.054;

4 (2) receives an unacceptable financial accountability  
5 rating under Section 39.082; [~~or~~]

6 (3) receives an unacceptable academic performance  
7 rating under Section 39.054 for one of the school years and an  
8 unacceptable financial accountability rating under Section 39.082  
9 for the other school year; or

10 (4) fails to satisfy any eligibility standards adopted  
11 by the commissioner under Section 12A.001.

12 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect August 1, 2021.