

By: Allen

H.B. No. 2184

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a public school student's transition from an alternative education program to a regular classroom.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.023 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.023. TRANSITION FROM ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM TO REGULAR CLASSROOM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Alternative education program" includes:

(A) a disciplinary alternative education program operated by a school district or open-enrollment charter school;

(B) a juvenile justice alternative education program; and

(C) a residential program or facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, a juvenile board, or any other governmental entity.

(2) "Licensed clinical social worker" has the meaning assigned by Section 505.002, Occupations Code.

(b) As soon as practicable after an alternative education program determines the date of a student's release from the program, the alternative education program administrator shall:

(1) provide written notice of that date to:

(A) the student's parent or a person standing in parental relation to the student; and

1 (B) the administrator of the campus to which the
2 student intends to transition; and

3 (2) provide the campus administrator:

4 (A) an assessment of the student's academic
5 growth while attending the alternative education program; and

6 (B) the results of any assessment instruments
7 administered to the student.

8 (c) Not later than five instructional days after the date of
9 a student's release from an alternative education program, the
10 campus administrator shall coordinate the student's transition to a
11 regular classroom. The coordination must include assistance and
12 recommendations from:

13 (1) school counselors;

14 (2) school district peace officers;

15 (3) school resource officers;

16 (4) licensed clinical social workers;

17 (5) campus behavior coordinators;

18 (6) classroom teachers; and

19 (7) any other appropriate school district personnel.

20 (d) The assistance required by Subsection (c) must include a
21 personalized transition plan for the student developed by the
22 campus administrator. A personalized transition plan:

23 (1) must include recommendations for the best
24 educational placement of the student; and

25 (2) may include:

26 (A) recommendations for counseling, behavioral
27 management, or academic assistance for the student with a

1 concentration on the student's academic or career goals;

2 (B) recommendations for assistance for obtaining
3 access to mental health services provided by the district or
4 school, a local mental health authority, or another private or
5 public entity;

6 (C) the provision of information to the student's
7 parent or a person standing in parental relation to the student
8 about the process to request a full individual and initial
9 evaluation of the student for purposes of special education
10 services under Section 29.004; and

11 (D) a regular review of the student's progress
12 toward the student's academic or career goals.

13 (e) If practicable, the campus administrator, or the
14 administrator's designee, shall meet with the student's parent or a
15 person standing in parental relation to the student to coordinate
16 plans for the student's transition.

17 (f) This section applies only to a student subject to
18 compulsory attendance requirements under Section 25.085.

19 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
20 school year.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.