

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 996

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to eliminating the state-required assessment instrument
3 in social studies and the United States history end-of-course
4 assessment instrument.

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

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

8 (a) The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate
9 criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess
10 essential knowledge and skills in reading, writing, mathematics,
11 ~~[social studies,~~ and science. Except as provided by Subsection
12 (a-2), all students, other than students assessed under Subsection
13 (b) or (1) or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

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

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

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

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

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

22 (5) ~~[(6)]~~ any other subject and grade required by
23 federal law.

24 (c) The agency shall also adopt end-of-course assessment

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

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

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

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

1 school year.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.