

By: Paxton

S.B. No. 2244

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the state virtual school network and a study on digital learning.

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

SECTION 1. Section 26.0031(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may deny a request to enroll a student in an electronic course if:

(1) a student attempts to enroll in a course load that is inconsistent with the student's high school graduation plan or requirements for college admission or earning an industry certification; or

(2) the student requests permission to enroll in an electronic course at a time that is not consistent with the enrollment period established by the school district or open-enrollment charter school providing the course[~~, or~~

~~[(3) the district or school offers a substantially similar course].~~

SECTION 2. Section 30A.153(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A [~~Subject to the limitation imposed under Subsection (a-1), a~~] school district or open-enrollment charter school in which a student is enrolled is entitled to funding under Chapter 42 or in accordance with the terms of a charter granted under Section

1 12.101 for the student's enrollment in an electronic course offered  
2 through the state virtual school network in the same manner that the  
3 district or school is entitled to funding for the student's  
4 enrollment in courses provided in a traditional classroom setting,  
5 provided that the student successfully completes the electronic  
6 course.

7 SECTION 3. Section 30A.155(a), Education Code, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may  
10 charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided  
11 through the state virtual school network to a student who resides in  
12 this state and[+]

13 [~~(1)~~] is enrolled in a school district or  
14 open-enrollment charter school as a full-time student with a course  
15 load greater than that normally taken by students in the equivalent  
16 grade level in other school districts or open-enrollment charter  
17 schools[~~, or~~

18 [~~(2) elects to enroll in an electronic course provided~~  
19 ~~through the network for which the school district or~~  
20 ~~open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled as~~  
21 ~~a full-time student declines to pay the cost, as authorized by~~  
22 ~~Section 26.0031(c-1)].~~

23 SECTION 4. Sections 26.0031(c-1) and 30A.153(a-1),  
24 Education Code, are repealed.

25 SECTION 5. (a) The Texas Education Agency shall conduct a  
26 study regarding the effectiveness of digital learning in public  
27 schools. The study must include:

1           (1) methods of providing digital learning to students  
2 in kindergarten through 12th grade; and

3           (2) recommendations regarding the establishment of  
4 partnerships between school districts or open-enrollment charter  
5 schools and institutions of higher education and other public and  
6 private entities to provide digital learning options.

7           (b) Not later than September 1, 2020, the Texas Education  
8 Agency shall submit to the commissioner of education and each  
9 legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over  
10 public education a report that includes:

11           (1) the results of the study conducted under this  
12 section; and

13           (2) recommendations to improve digital learning,  
14 including virtual learning under Chapter 30A, Education Code.

15           (c) Based on the results of the study and the report  
16 prepared under this section, the commissioner of education shall  
17 establish procedures to increase:

18           (1) digital learning by students and participation in  
19 the virtual school network; and

20           (2) participation by school districts and  
21 open-enrollment charter schools in establishing partnerships with  
22 institutions of higher education and other public and private  
23 entities.

24           (d) This section expires January 1, 2021.

25           SECTION 6. The Texas Education Agency is required to  
26 implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature  
27 appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the

1 legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
2 purpose, the agency may, but is not required to, implement a  
3 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that  
4 purpose.

5 SECTION 7. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020  
6 school year.

7 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.