

By: West

S.B. No. 2361

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of the children of public school educators for free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 29.153(b) and (f), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) A child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class under this section if the child is at least three years of age and:

(1) is unable to speak and comprehend the English language;

(2) is educationally disadvantaged;

(3) is a homeless child, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child;

(4) is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority;

(5) is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty;

1 (6) is or ever has been in the conservatorship of the  
2 Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary  
3 hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code; ~~or~~

4 (7) is the child of a person eligible for the Star of  
5 Texas Award as:

6 (A) a peace officer under Section 3106.002,  
7 Government Code;

8 (B) a firefighter under Section 3106.003,  
9 Government Code; or

10 (C) an emergency medical first responder under  
11 Section 3106.004, Government Code; or

12 (8) is the child of an educator employed by a school  
13 district in this state.

14 (f) A child who is eligible for enrollment in a  
15 prekindergarten class under Subsection (b)(4), ~~or~~ (5), or (8)  
16 remains eligible for enrollment after the child begins a  
17 prekindergarten class if, as applicable, the child's parent:

18 (1) leaves the armed forces;

19 (2) ~~or~~ is no longer on active duty; or

20 (3) is no longer employed as an educator by a school  
21 district in this state~~, after the child begins a prekindergarten~~  
22 ~~class].~~

23 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020  
24 school year.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.