87R2105 MM-F

By:  Guillen H.B. No. 1303

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an academic distinction designation for high student achievement under the public school accountability system.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 39.202, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.202.  ACADEMIC DISTINCTION DESIGNATIONS [~~DESIGNATION~~] FOR DISTRICTS AND CAMPUSES. (a) The commissioner by rule shall establish an academic distinction designation for districts and campuses for outstanding performance in attainment of postsecondary readiness. The commissioner shall adopt criteria for the designation under this subsection [~~section~~], including:

(1)  percentages of students who:

(A)  performed satisfactorily, as determined under the college readiness performance standard under Section 39.0241, on assessment instruments required under Section 39.023(a), (b), (c), or (l), aggregated across grade levels by subject area; or

(B)  met the standard for annual improvement, as determined by the agency under Section 39.034, on assessment instruments required under Section 39.023(a), (b), (c), or (l), aggregated across grade levels by subject area, for students who did not perform satisfactorily as described by Paragraph (A);

(2)  percentages of:

(A)  students who earned a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license;

(B)  students who completed a coherent sequence of career and technical courses;

(C)  students who completed a dual credit course or an articulated postsecondary course provided for local credit;

(D)  students who achieved applicable College Readiness Benchmarks or the equivalent on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), the American College Test (ACT), or the ACT-Plan assessment program; and

(E)  students who received a score on either an advanced placement test or an international baccalaureate examination to be awarded college credit; and

(3)  other factors for determining sufficient student attainment of postsecondary readiness.

(b)  In addition to the distinction designation described by Subsection (a), the commissioner by rule shall establish an academic distinction designation for districts and campuses for outstanding performance in attainment of high student achievement. The commissioner shall adopt criteria for the designation under this subsection, including percentages of students who:

(1)  have earned a diploma after not more than three and one-half years of high school attendance;

(2)  in grade seven or eight, complete a pre-advanced placement course or pre-international baccalaureate course;

(3)  have been promoted to higher grade levels than the grade levels to which the students would ordinarily be assigned;

(4)  are identified as gifted and talented and have been promoted to higher grade levels than the grade levels to which the students would ordinarily be assigned;

(5)  have received credit by examination;

(6)  are identified as gifted and talented and have received credit by examination; and

(7)  complete not less than 10 project-based learning projects during a school year.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.