By:  Hughes S.B. No. 442

(In the Senate - Filed January 26, 2021; March 9, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; March 29, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 2; March 29, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Taylor            X

Lucio                X

Bettencourt          X

Hall                 X

Hughes               X

Menéndez                 X

Paxton               X

Perry                X

Powell               X

Schwertner           X

West                     X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 442 By:  Hughes

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to local school health advisory councils and health education provided by public schools, including requirements regarding human sexuality instruction.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 28.004, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (d), (d-1), (h), (i), (i-1), and (j) and adding Subsections (d-2), (e-1), (e-2), (e-3), (j-1), and (p) to read as follows:

(d)  The local school health advisory council must consist of at least five members, with each member appointed by the [~~The~~] board of trustees [~~shall appoint at least five members to the local school health advisory council~~]. A majority of the members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district and who are not employed by the district. One of those members shall serve as chair or co-chair of the council. The board of trustees also may appoint one or more persons from each of the following groups or a representative from a group other than a group specified under this subsection:

(1)  classroom teachers employed by the district;

(2)  school counselors certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, employed by the district;

(3)  school administrators employed by the district;

(4)  district students;

(5)  health care professionals licensed or certified to practice in this state, including medical or mental health professionals;

(6)  the business community;

(7)  law enforcement;

(8)  senior citizens;

(9)  the clergy;

(10)  nonprofit health organizations; and

(11)  local domestic violence programs.

(d-1)  The local school health advisory council shall meet at least four times each year. For each meeting, the council shall:

(1)  at least 72 hours before the meeting:

(A)  post notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of the meeting on a bulletin board in the central administrative office of each campus in the school district; and

(B)  ensure that the notice required under Paragraph (A) is posted on the district's Internet website, if the district has an Internet website;

(2)  allow the public to attend the meeting and provide an opportunity for public comment;

(3)  prepare and maintain minutes of the meeting that state the subject and content of each deliberation and each vote, order, decision, or other action taken by the council during the meeting;

(4)  make an audio or video recording of the meeting; and

(5)  not later than the 10th day after the meeting, submit the minutes and audio or video recording of the meeting to the district.

(d-2)  As soon as practicable after receipt of the minutes and audio or video recording under Subsection (d-1)(5), the school district shall post the minutes and audio or video recording on the district's Internet website, if the district has an Internet website.

(e-1)  The board of trustees shall adopt a policy establishing a process for the adoption of curriculum materials for the school district's human sexuality instruction. The policy must require:

(1)  the board to adopt a resolution convening the local school health advisory council for the purpose of making recommendations regarding the curriculum materials;

(2)  the local school health advisory council to:

(A)  after the board's adoption of the resolution under Subdivision (1), hold at least two public meetings, at which an opportunity for public comment is provided, on the curriculum materials before adopting recommendations; and

(B)  provide the recommendations adopted under Paragraph (A) to the board at a public meeting of the board, at which an opportunity for public comment is provided; and

(3)  the board, after receipt of the local school health advisory council's recommendations under Subdivision (2), to take action on the adoption of the recommendations by a record vote at a public meeting.

(e-2)  Curriculum materials proposed to be adopted for the school district's human sexuality instruction must be made available as provided by Subsection (j)(1) or (2)(A) or (C), as applicable.

(e-3)  Before adopting curriculum materials for the school district's human sexuality instruction, the board of trustees shall ensure that the curriculum materials are:

(1)  free from factual errors;

(2)  suitable for the subject and grade level for which the curriculum materials are intended; and

(3)  reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade level for which the curriculum materials are intended.

(h)  The board of trustees shall determine the specific content of the district's instruction in human sexuality, in accordance with this section [~~Subsections (e), (f), and (g)~~].

(i)  Before each school year, a school district shall provide written notice to a parent of each student enrolled in the district of the board of trustees' decision regarding whether the district will provide human sexuality instruction to district students. If instruction will be provided, the notice must include:

(1)  a [~~summary of the basic content of the district's human sexuality instruction to be provided to the student, including a~~] statement informing the parent of the human sexuality instruction [~~instructional~~] requirements under state law;

(2)  a detailed description of the content of the district's human sexuality instruction and a general schedule on which the instruction will be provided;

(3)  a statement of the parent's right to:

(A)  at the parent's discretion, review or purchase a copy of curriculum materials as provided by Subsection (j); [~~and~~]

(B)  remove the student from any part of the district's human sexuality instruction without subjecting the student to any disciplinary action, academic penalty, or other sanction imposed by the district or the student's school; and

(C)  use the grievance procedure as provided by Subsection (i-1) or the appeals process under Section 7.057 concerning a complaint of a violation of this section;

(4)  a statement that any curriculum materials in the public domain used for the district's human sexuality instruction must be posted on the district's Internet website, if the district has an Internet website, and the Internet website address at which the curriculum materials are located; and

(5) [~~(3)~~]  information describing the opportunities for parental involvement in the development of the curriculum to be used in human sexuality instruction, including information regarding the local school health advisory council established under Subsection (a).

(i-1)  A parent may use the grievance procedure adopted under Section 26.011 concerning a complaint of a violation of this section [~~Subsection (i)~~].

(j)  A school district shall make all curriculum materials used in the district's human sexuality instruction available by:

(1)  for curriculum materials in the public domain:

(A)  providing a copy of the curriculum materials by mail or e-mail to a parent of a student enrolled in the district on the parent's request; and

(B)  posting the curriculum materials on the district's Internet website, if the district has an Internet website; and

(2)  for copyrighted curriculum materials, allowing a parent of a student enrolled in the district to:

(A)  review the curriculum materials at the student's campus at any time during regular business hours;

(B)  purchase a copy of the curriculum materials from the publisher as provided by the district's purchase agreement for the curriculum materials under Subsection (j-1); or

(C)  review the curriculum materials online through a secure electronic account in a manner that prevents the curriculum materials from being copied and that otherwise complies with copyright law [~~for reasonable public inspection~~].

(j-1)  If a school district purchases from a publisher copyrighted curriculum materials for use in the district's human sexuality instruction, the district shall ensure that the purchase agreement provides for a means by which a parent of a student enrolled in the district may purchase a copy of the curriculum materials from the publisher at a price that does not exceed the price per unit paid by the district for the curriculum materials.

(p)  In this section:

(1)  "Curriculum materials" includes the curriculum, teacher training materials, and any other materials used in providing instruction.

(2)  "Human sexuality instruction," "instruction in human sexuality," and "instruction relating to human sexuality" include instruction in reproductive health.

SECTION 2.  Section 12.104(b), Education Code, as amended by Chapters 262 (H.B. 1597), 464 (S.B. 11), 467 (H.B. 4170), and 943 (H.B. 3), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(b)  An open-enrollment charter school is subject to:

(1)  a provision of this title establishing a criminal offense;

(2)  the provisions in Chapter 554, Government Code; and

(3)  a prohibition, restriction, or requirement, as applicable, imposed by this title or a rule adopted under this title, relating to:

(A)  the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to the extent necessary to monitor compliance with this subchapter as determined by the commissioner;

(B)  criminal history records under Subchapter C, Chapter 22;

(C)  reading instruments and accelerated reading instruction programs under Section 28.006;

(D)  accelerated instruction under Section 28.0211;

(E)  high school graduation requirements under Section 28.025;

(F)  special education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29;

(G)  bilingual education under Subchapter B, Chapter 29;

(H)  prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E or E-1, Chapter 29;

(I)  extracurricular activities under Section 33.081;

(J)  discipline management practices or behavior management techniques under Section 37.0021;

(K)  health and safety under Chapter 38;

(L)  public school accountability under Subchapters B, C, D, F, G, and J, Chapter 39, and Chapter 39A;

(M)  the requirement under Section 21.006 to report an educator's misconduct;

(N)  intensive programs of instruction under Section 28.0213;

(O)  the right of a school employee to report a crime, as provided by Section 37.148;

(P)  bullying prevention policies and procedures under Section 37.0832;

(Q)  the right of a school under Section 37.0052 to place a student who has engaged in certain bullying behavior in a disciplinary alternative education program or to expel the student;

(R)  the right under Section 37.0151 to report to local law enforcement certain conduct constituting assault or harassment;

(S)  a parent's right to information regarding the provision of assistance for learning difficulties to the parent's child as provided by Sections 26.004(b)(11) and 26.0081(c) and (d);

(T)  establishment of residency under Section 25.001;

(U) [~~(T)~~]  school safety requirements under Sections 37.108, 37.1081, 37.1082, 37.109, 37.113, 37.114, 37.115, 37.207, and 37.2071;

(V) [~~(T)~~]  the early childhood literacy and mathematics proficiency plans under Section 11.185; [~~and~~]

(W) [~~(U)~~]  the college, career, and military readiness plans under Section 11.186; and

(X)  establishing a local school health advisory council and providing health education instruction under Section 28.004.

SECTION 3.  (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, this Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

(b)  Section 28.004(j-1), Education Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a purchase agreement entered into, amended, or renewed on or after September 1, 2021.

SECTION 4.  To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 5.  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.

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