87R2405 TSS-D

By:  Lucio S.B. No. 1318

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the commissioner of education to conduct special accreditation investigations.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 39.057(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  The commissioner may authorize special accreditation investigations to be conducted:

(1)  when excessive numbers of absences of students eligible to be tested on state assessment instruments are determined;

(2)  when excessive numbers of allowable exemptions from the required state assessment instruments are determined;

(3)  in response to complaints submitted to the agency with respect to alleged violations of civil rights or other requirements imposed on the state by federal law or court order;

(4)  in response to established compliance reviews of the district's financial accounting practices and state and federal program requirements;

(5)  when extraordinary numbers of student placements in disciplinary alternative education programs, other than placements under Sections 37.006 and 37.007, are determined;

(6)  in response to an allegation involving a conflict between members of the board of trustees or between the board and the district administration if it appears that the conflict involves a violation of a role or duty of the board members or the administration clearly defined by this code;

(7)  when excessive numbers of students in special education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, are assessed through assessment instruments developed or adopted under Section 39.023(b);

(8)  in response to an allegation regarding or an analysis using a statistical method result indicating a possible violation of an assessment instrument security procedure established under Section 39.0301, including for the purpose of investigating or auditing a school district under that section;

(9)  when a significant pattern of decreased academic performance has developed as a result of the promotion in the preceding two school years of students who did not perform satisfactorily as determined by the commissioner under Section 39.0241(a) on assessment instruments administered under Section 39.023(a), (c), or (l);

(10)  when excessive numbers of students eligible to enroll fail to complete an Algebra II course or any other advanced course as determined by the commissioner;

(11)  when resource allocation practices as evaluated under Section 39.0821 indicate a potential for significant improvement in resource allocation;

(12)  when a disproportionate number of students of a particular demographic group is graduating with a particular endorsement under Section 28.025(c-1);

(13)  when an excessive number of students is graduating with a particular endorsement under Section 28.025(c-1);

(14)  in response to a complaint submitted to the agency with respect to alleged inaccurate data that is reported through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) or through other reports required by state or federal law or rule or court order and that is used by the agency to make a determination relating to public school accountability, including accreditation, under this chapter;

(15)  when a school district for any reason fails to produce, at the request of the agency, evidence or an investigation report relating to an educator who is under investigation by the State Board for Educator Certification; [~~or~~]

(16)  when an excessive number of students is transferring out of a school district or between campuses within a school district:

(A)  after completing the second grade and before entering the third grade; or

(B)  during the 60 days before the date of the administration of an assessment instrument under Section 39.023; or

(17)  as the commissioner otherwise determines necessary.

SECTION 2.  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.