

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 (1), 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 (1), aggregated across grade levels by subject area, for students who did not perform satisfactorily as described by Paragraph (A);

(2) percentages of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (5) have received credit by examination;

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

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

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

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