

By: Sanford

H.B. No. 3528

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the grade levels at which students may enroll in courses provided through the state virtual school network.

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

SECTION 1. Section 30A.007(a-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall, at least once per school year, send to a parent of each district or school student [~~enrolled at the middle or high school level~~] a copy of the policy adopted under Subsection (a). A district or school may send the policy with any other information that the district or school sends to a parent.

SECTION 2. Section 30A.101(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation is eligible to act as a course provider under this chapter only if the nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation:

(1) complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination;

(2) demonstrates financial solvency; and

(3) provides evidence of prior successful experience offering online courses to kindergarten or elementary, middle, or high school students, with demonstrated student success in course completion and performance, as determined by the commissioner.

1 SECTION 3. Section 30A.104(a), Education Code, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3 (a) A course offered through the state virtual school  
4 network must:

5 (1) be in a specific subject that is part of the  
6 required curriculum under Section 28.002(a);

7 (2) be aligned with the essential knowledge and skills  
8 identified under Section 28.002(c) for a grade level at or above  
9 kindergarten [~~grade level three~~]; and

10 (3) be the equivalent in instructional rigor and scope  
11 to a course that is provided in a traditional classroom setting  
12 during a semester of 90 instructional days.

13 SECTION 4. Section 30A.151(f), Education Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 (f) For a full-time electronic course program offered  
16 through the state virtual school network for a grade level at or  
17 above kindergarten [~~grade level three~~] but not above grade level  
18 eight, a school district or open-enrollment charter school is  
19 entitled to receive federal, state, and local funding for a student  
20 enrolled in the program in an amount equal to the funding the  
21 district or school would otherwise receive for a student enrolled  
22 in the district or school. The district or school may calculate  
23 the average daily attendance of a student enrolled in the program  
24 based on:

25 (1) hours of contact with the student;

26 (2) the student's successful completion of a course;

27 or

1           (3) a method approved by the commissioner.

2           SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
3 school year.

4           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.