

By: Middleton

H.B. No. 4504

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to certain requirements and procedures concerning the
3 assignment of grades by a classroom teacher under a school
4 district's grading policy.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 28.0216, Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 28.0216. DISTRICT GRADING POLICY. A school district
9 shall adopt a grading policy, including provisions for the
10 assignment of grades on class assignments and examinations, before
11 each school year. A district grading policy:

12 (1) must require a classroom teacher to assign a grade
13 that reflects the student's relative mastery of an assignment;

14 (2) may not require a classroom teacher to assign a
15 minimum grade for an assignment without regard to the student's
16 quality of work; ~~and~~

17 (3) may allow a student a reasonable opportunity to
18 make up or redo a class assignment or examination for which the
19 student received a failing grade;

20 (4) must state that a classroom teacher has the sole
21 responsibility to assign a student's grade without interference,
22 including interference by a school counselor or school
23 administrator;

24 (5) must provide procedures for protecting classroom

1 teachers from outside influence over grading decisions, including
2 procedures that protect a classroom teacher from being:

3 (A) forced to alter a grade; or

4 (B) bullied or retaliated against for an assigned
5 grade; and

6 (6) must provide for disciplinary action against a
7 district employee who engages in conduct described by Subdivision
8 (5)(A) or (B) or otherwise improperly attempts to force a classroom
9 teacher to change an assigned grade.

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

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