

By: Paxton, West

S.B. No. 346

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the participation of open-enrollment charter schools  
3 and eligible nonprofit organizations in the Jobs and Education for  
4 Texans (JET) Grant Program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 134.004, Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 134.004. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT  
9 PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish and administer the  
10 Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program to provide grants  
11 to public junior colleges, public technical institutes, public  
12 state colleges, eligible nonprofit organizations, and independent  
13 school districts and open-enrollment charter schools described  
14 under Section 134.007 that apply to the advisory board in the manner  
15 prescribed by the advisory board. The commission shall award the  
16 grants on the advice and recommendations of the advisory board.

17 (b) Grants may be awarded under this chapter from the Jobs  
18 and Education for Texans (JET) fund to defray the start-up costs  
19 associated with the development of new career and technical  
20 education programs at public junior colleges, public technical  
21 institutes, public state colleges, and independent school  
22 districts and open-enrollment charter schools described under  
23 Section 134.007 that meet the requirements of Section 134.006.

24 SECTION 2. Section 134.001, Education Code, is amended by

1 adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

2 (1-a) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization  
3 exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal  
4 Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section  
5 501(c)(3) of that code.

6 SECTION 3. Chapter 134, Education Code, is amended by  
7 adding Section 134.005 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 134.005. GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR  
9 INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS. (a) The commission may award  
10 a grant to a nonprofit organization eligible under Subsection (b)  
11 for the development, support, or expansion of programs to prepare  
12 low-income students for careers in high-demand occupations.

13 (b) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
14 nonprofit organization must:

15 (1) provide a program to offer assistance to  
16 low-income students in preparing for, applying to and enrolling in  
17 a public junior college or public technical institute;

18 (2) be governed by a board or other governing  
19 structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based  
20 community organizations and members of the local business  
21 community;

22 (3) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the advisory  
23 board that the organization's program has achieved or will achieve  
24 the following measures of success among program participants to the  
25 extent applicable to the type of program the organization provides:

26 (A) above-average completion of developmental  
27 education among participating public junior college or public

1 technical institute students;

2 (B) above-average persistence rates among  
3 participating public junior college or public technical institute  
4 students;

5 (C) above-average certificate or degree  
6 completion rates by participating students within a three-year  
7 period compared to demographically comparable public junior  
8 college and public technical institute students; and

9 (D) employment of participating students at an  
10 average full-time starting wage that is equal to or greater than the  
11 prevailing wage for the occupation entered; and

12 (4) provide matching funds in accordance with rules  
13 adopted under Section 134.008.

14 (c) The matching funds required under Subsection (b)(4) may  
15 be obtained from any source available to the nonprofit  
16 organization, including in-kind contributions, community or  
17 foundation grants, individual contributions, and local  
18 governmental agency operating funds.

19 (d) Grants awarded under this section must be awarded in a  
20 manner that takes a balanced geographical distribution into  
21 consideration.

22 SECTION 4. Sections 134.006(a) and (d), Education Code, are  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (a) The commission may award a grant for the development of  
25 new career and technical education courses or programs at public  
26 junior colleges, public technical institutes, public state  
27 colleges, ~~and~~ independent school districts, and open-enrollment

1 charter schools.

2 (d) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
3 public junior college, public technical institute, public state  
4 college, or independent school district or open-enrollment charter  
5 school described under Section 134.007 must provide matching funds  
6 in accordance with rules adopted under Section 134.008. The  
7 matching funds may be obtained from any source available to the  
8 public junior college, public technical institute, public state  
9 college, [~~or~~] independent school district, or open-enrollment  
10 charter school, including industry consortia, community or  
11 foundation grants, individual contributions, and local  
12 governmental agency operating funds.

13 SECTION 5. Section 134.007, Education Code, is amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 Sec. 134.007. GRANTS AWARDED TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
16 OR OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL. The commission may award a  
17 grant to an independent school district or open-enrollment charter  
18 school under this chapter if the district or school has entered into  
19 a partnership with a public junior college, public technical  
20 institute, or public state college for the purpose of:

21 (1) promoting career and technical education to the  
22 district's or school's students; or

23 (2) offering dual credit courses to the district's or  
24 school's students.

25 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.