

By: Paxton, et al.
(Dutton)

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.