

By: Schwertner

S.B. No. 473

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the curriculum requirements for public high school
3 students.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 28.025(b-1) and (b-9), Education Code,
6 are amended to read as follows:

7 (b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require
8 that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school
9 program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students
10 successfully complete:

11 (1) four credits in English language arts under
12 Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one
13 credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in
14 an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

15 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section
16 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in
17 geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course
18 authorized under Subsection (b-2);

19 (3) three credits in science under Section
20 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any
21 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one
22 credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional
23 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

24 (4) three credits in social studies under Section

1 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at
2 least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in
3 economics, and one credit in world geography or world history;

4 (5) except as provided under Subsections (b-12),
5 (b-13), and (b-14), two credits in the same language in a language
6 other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A);

7 (6) five elective credits;

8 (7) one credit in:

9 (A) fine arts under Section 28.002(a)(2)(D); or

10 (B) career and technology education under
11 Section 28.002(a)(2)(E); and

12 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one
13 credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

14 (b-9) A school district, with the approval of the
15 commissioner, may allow a student to satisfy the fine arts credit
16 ~~[required]~~ under Subsection (b-1)(7)(A) ~~[(b-1)(7)]~~ by
17 participating in a community-based fine arts program not provided
18 by the school district in which the student is enrolled. The fine
19 arts program must provide instruction in the essential knowledge
20 and skills identified for fine arts by the State Board of Education
21 under Section 28.002(c). The fine arts program may be provided on or
22 off a school campus and outside the regular school day.

23 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
24 school year.

25 SECTION 3. 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.