

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 879

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the qualifications for designation as a dropout  
3 recovery school.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 12.1141(c), Education Code, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 (c) At the end of the term of a charter for an  
8 open-enrollment charter school, if a charter holder submits to the  
9 commissioner a petition for renewal of the charter and the charter  
10 does not meet the criteria for expedited renewal under Subsection  
11 (b) or for expiration under Subsection (d), the commissioner shall  
12 use the discretionary consideration process. The commissioner's  
13 decision under the discretionary consideration process must take  
14 into consideration the results of annual evaluations under the  
15 performance frameworks established under Section 12.1181. The  
16 renewal of the charter of an open-enrollment charter school that is  
17 registered under the agency's alternative education accountability  
18 procedures for evaluation under Chapter 39 shall be considered  
19 under the discretionary consideration process regardless of the  
20 performance ratings under Subchapter C, Chapter 39, of the  
21 open-enrollment charter school or of any campus operating under the  
22 charter, except that if the charter holder has been assigned a  
23 financial accountability performance rating under Subchapter D,  
24 Chapter 39, indicating financial performance that is lower than

1 satisfactory for any three of the five preceding school years, the  
2 commissioner shall allow the charter to expire under Subsection  
3 (d). In considering the renewal of the charter of an  
4 open-enrollment charter school that is registered under the  
5 agency's alternative education accountability procedures for  
6 evaluation under Chapter 39, such as a dropout recovery school or a  
7 school providing education within a residential treatment  
8 facility, the commissioner shall use academic criteria established  
9 by commissioner rule that are appropriate to measure the specific  
10 goals of the school. The criteria established by the commissioner  
11 shall recognize growth in student achievement as well as  
12 educational attainment. For purposes of this subsection, the  
13 commissioner shall designate as a dropout recovery school an  
14 open-enrollment charter school or a campus of an open-enrollment  
15 charter school:

16 (1) that serves students in grades 9 through 12 and has  
17 an enrollment of which at least 60 [~~50~~] percent of the students are  
18 16 [~~17~~] years of age or older as of September 1 of the school year as  
19 reported for the fall semester Public Education Information  
20 Management System (PEIMS) submission; and

21 (2) that meets the eligibility requirements for and is  
22 registered under alternative education accountability procedures  
23 adopted by the commissioner.

24 SECTION 2. Section 12.137(a), Education Code, is amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (a) This section applies only to:

27 (1) an open-enrollment charter school designated as a

1 dropout recovery school as described by Section 12.1141(c) if the  
2 enrollment of the school consists only of students 16 [~~17~~] years of  
3 age and older; and

4 (2) an adult education program provided under a high  
5 school diploma and industry certification charter school program  
6 under Section 29.259.

7 SECTION 3. Section 39.0548(a), Education Code, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 (a) For purposes of evaluating performance under Section  
10 39.053(c), the commissioner shall designate as a dropout recovery  
11 school a school district or an open-enrollment charter school or a  
12 campus of a district or of an open-enrollment charter school:

13 (1) that:

14 (A) serves students in grades 9 through 12 and  
15 has an enrollment of which at least 60 [~~50~~] percent of the students  
16 are 16 [~~17~~] years of age or older as of September 1 of the school  
17 year as reported for the fall semester Public Education Information  
18 Management System (PEIMS) submission; or

19 (B) applies for and receives designation as a  
20 dropout recovery school in accordance with commissioner rule; and

21 (2) that meets the eligibility requirements for and is  
22 registered under alternative education accountability procedures  
23 adopted by the commissioner.

24 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
25 school year.

26 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.