

By: Paxton

S.B. No. 1695

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to online courses and programs offered by a public school,  
3 including courses and programs offered through the state virtual  
4 school network.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter [Z](#), Chapter [29](#), Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 29.9091 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 29.9091. ONLINE COURSES. (a) A school district or  
9 open-enrollment charter school may develop online courses outside  
10 the state virtual school network under Chapter [30A](#) to be offered to  
11 students enrolled in the district or school.

12 (b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school is  
13 entitled to funding under Chapter [48](#) or in accordance with the terms  
14 of a charter granted under Section [12.101](#) for the student's  
15 enrollment in an online course in the same manner that the district  
16 or school is entitled to funding for the student's enrollment in  
17 courses in a traditional classroom setting.

18 (c) The commissioner shall adopt rules regarding attendance  
19 accounting for courses offered under this section.

20 SECTION 2. Subchapter [C](#), Chapter [30A](#), Education Code, is  
21 amended by adding Section 30A.1011 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 30A.1011. FULL-TIME ONLINE PROGRAM. A school district  
23 or open-enrollment charter school may operate a full-time online  
24 program through the state virtual school network if the district or

1 school is eligible to act as a course provider under Section  
2 30A.101.

3 SECTION 3. Section 30A.103(d), Education Code, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 (d) The criteria must be in place at least six months before  
6 [~~the administering authority uses~~] the criteria is used in  
7 evaluating an electronic course under Section 30A.105 or 30A.1053.

8 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 30A.105, Education Code,  
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 Sec. 30A.105. APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC COURSES BY  
11 ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY.

12 SECTION 5. Sections 30A.105(a), (b), and (c), Education  
13 Code, are amended to read as follows:

14 (a) Subject to Section 30A.1053, the [~~The~~] administering  
15 authority shall:

16 (1) establish a submission and approval process for  
17 electronic courses that occurs on a rolling basis; and

18 (2) evaluate electronic courses to be offered through  
19 the state virtual school network.

20 (b) The administering authority shall establish the cost of  
21 providing an electronic course approved under Subsection (a) or  
22 Section 30A.1053, which may not exceed \$400 per student per course  
23 or \$4,800 per full-time student.

24 (c) The agency shall pay the reasonable costs of evaluating  
25 and approving electronic courses under this section. If funds  
26 available to the agency for that purpose are insufficient to pay the  
27 costs of evaluating and approving all electronic courses submitted

1 for evaluation and approval, the agency shall give priority to  
2 paying the costs of evaluating and approving the following courses:

3 (1) courses that satisfy high school graduation  
4 requirements;

5 (2) courses that would likely benefit a student in  
6 obtaining admission to a postsecondary institution;

7 (3) courses, including dual credit courses, that allow  
8 a student to earn college credit or other advanced credit;

9 (4) courses in subject areas most likely to be highly  
10 beneficial to students receiving educational services under the  
11 supervision of a juvenile probation department, the Texas Juvenile  
12 Justice Department, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;  
13 and

14 (5) courses in subject areas designated by the  
15 commissioner as commonly experiencing a shortage of teachers.

16 SECTION 6. Subchapter C, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is  
17 amended by adding Section 30A.1053 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 30A.1053. APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC COURSES BY DISTRICT  
19 OR SCHOOL. (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school  
20 that is eligible to act as a course provider under Section 30A.101  
21 may establish a process by which the district or school evaluates  
22 and approves electronic courses developed by the district or school  
23 to be offered through the state virtual school network.

24 (b) A process established under Subsection (a) must require  
25 an electronic course to comply with the requirements under Sections  
26 30A.103 and 30A.104.

27 (c) The agency shall review each electronic course approved

1 by a school district or open-enrollment charter school under this  
2 section to ensure that the course meets minimum accessibility  
3 standards, as established by commissioner rule.

4 (d) The administering authority shall include in the state  
5 virtual school network electronic courses approved by a school  
6 district or open-enrollment charter school and reviewed by the  
7 agency under this section.

8 SECTION 7. Section 30A.153(a), Education Code, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 (a) A [~~Subject to the limitation imposed under Subsection~~  
11 ~~(a-1), a]~~ school district or open-enrollment charter school in  
12 which a student is enrolled is entitled to funding under Chapter 48  
13 or in accordance with the terms of a charter granted under Section  
14 12.101 for the student's enrollment in an electronic course offered  
15 through the state virtual school network in the same manner that the  
16 district or school is entitled to funding for the student's  
17 enrollment in courses provided in a traditional classroom setting,  
18 provided that the student successfully completes the electronic  
19 course.

20 SECTION 8. The following provisions of the Education Code  
21 are repealed:

22 (1) Section 26.0031(c-1); and

23 (2) Section 30A.153(a-1).

24 SECTION 9. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
25 school year.

26 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect immediately if it  
27 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each

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