

By: Blanco

S.B. No. 1702

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to course requirements for public high school students and  
3 a requirement to collect and report information regarding  
4 endorsements earned by public school students.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 28.002(c), Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (c) The State Board of Education, with the direct  
9 participation of educators, parents, business and industry  
10 representatives, and employers shall by rule identify the essential  
11 knowledge and skills of each subject of the required curriculum  
12 that all students should be able to demonstrate and that will be  
13 used in evaluating instructional materials under Chapter 31 and  
14 addressed on the assessment instruments required under Subchapter  
15 B, Chapter 39. As a condition of accreditation, the board shall  
16 require each district to provide instruction in the essential  
17 knowledge and skills at appropriate grade levels and to require  
18 ~~[make available to]~~ each high school student in the district to  
19 complete an Algebra II course.

20 SECTION 2. Sections 28.025(b), (b-1), and (b-2), Education  
21 Code, are amended to read as follows:

22 (b) A school district shall ensure that each student, on  
23 entering ninth grade, indicates in writing an endorsement under  
24 Subsection (c-1) that the student intends to earn. A district shall

1 permit a student to choose, at any time, to earn an endorsement  
2 other than the endorsement the student previously indicated. A  
3 student may graduate under the foundation high school program  
4 without earning an endorsement if, after the student's sophomore  
5 year:

6 (1) the student and the student's parent or person  
7 standing in parental relation to the student are advised by a school  
8 counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school  
9 with one or more endorsements and are provided the information  
10 regarding those endorsements collected under Section 28.02561; and

11 (2) the student's parent or person standing in  
12 parental relation to the student files with a school counselor  
13 written permission, on a form adopted by the agency, allowing the  
14 student to graduate under the foundation high school program  
15 without earning an endorsement.

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

20 (1) four credits in English language arts under  
21 Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one  
22 credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in  
23 an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

24 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section  
25 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in  
26 geometry, and one credit in Algebra II [~~any advanced mathematics~~  
27 ~~course authorized under Subsection (b-2)~~];

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

6           (4) three credits in social studies under Section  
7 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at  
8 least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in  
9 economics, and one credit in world geography or world history;

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

13          (6) five elective credits;

14          (7) one credit in fine arts under Section  
15 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

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

18          (b-2) In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State  
19 Board of Education shall:

20           (1) provide for a student to comply with the  
21 curriculum requirements for an advanced English course under  
22 Subsection (b-1)(1), for an advanced mathematics course under  
23 Subsection (b-1)(2), and for any advanced science course under  
24 Subsection (b-1)(3) by successfully completing a course in the  
25 appropriate content area that has been approved as an advanced  
26 course by board rule or that is offered as an advanced course for  
27 credit without board approval as provided by Section 28.002(g-1);

1 and

2 (2) allow a student to comply with the curriculum  
3 requirements for the [~~third and fourth mathematics credits under~~  
4 ~~Subsection (b-1)(2) or the~~] third and fourth science credits under  
5 Subsection (b-1)(3) by successfully completing an advanced career  
6 and technical course designated by the State Board of Education as  
7 containing substantively similar and rigorous academic content.

8 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
9 amended by adding Section 28.02561 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 28.02561. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION REGARDING  
11 ENDORSEMENTS. (a) The agency shall require each school district  
12 to collect and submit to the agency the following information  
13 regarding district graduates who earned an endorsement under  
14 Section 28.025(c-1):

- 15 (1) the endorsement earned under that section;  
16 (2) whether the graduate enrolled in postsecondary  
17 education;  
18 (3) the graduate's college major or workforce  
19 certificate or credential; and  
20 (4) the graduate's employment status.

21 (b) The information collected under Subsection (a) shall be  
22 disaggregated by endorsement category and provided to a student and  
23 the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the  
24 student under Subsection 28.025(b).

25 SECTION 4. (a) Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as  
26 amended by this Act, applies only to students entering the ninth  
27 grade during the 2021-2022 school year or a later school year. For

1 students entering a grade above ninth grade during the 2021-2022  
2 school year, Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as that section  
3 existed before amendment by this Act, applies, and that section is  
4 continued in effect for that purpose.

5 (b) Section 28.025(b), Education Code, as amended by this  
6 Act, applies only to students entering the ninth grade during the  
7 2022-2023 school year or a later school year. For students entering  
8 a grade above ninth grade during the 2022-2023 school year, Section  
9 28.025(b), Education Code, as that section existed before amendment  
10 by this Act, applies, and that section is continued in effect for  
11 that purpose.

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.