

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1147

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

Hearing Date: March 9, 2021 8:00 AM

Dee Carney

Texas School Alliance

Austin, TX

The Texas School Alliance (TSA) comprises 43 of Texas' largest school districts, serving over 2 million students or nearly 40 percent of the state's total pupil enrollment. Our students represent 44 percent of the state's economically disadvantaged student population, 50 percent of its English Language Learners, and 43 percent of all at-risk students in the state. The organization works on issues that will improve educational quality for Texas students, particularly those in large and urban districts.

The Texas School Alliance SUPPORTS HB 1147 for the following reasons:

- 2019-20 Military Ready Graduates: TEA's statewide data shows there were 17,682 high school graduates from the 2019-20 school year that met their local district's 'proxies' for military enlistment – as per TEA's instructions in November 2017. (Source: TEA ,This Week in Performance Reporting. November 10, 2017.)
- TEA Excludes Military Enlistment: On October 2020, TEA announced, “Due to discrepancies between annual enlistment counts for Texas military enlistees aged 17–19 released by the Department of Defense and the Texas Student Data System (TSDS) Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) military enlistment data for 2017 and 2018 annual graduates, TEA will exclude military enlistment data from both CCMR accountability calculations and CCMR Outcomes Bonus Student Listings until such data can be obtained directly from the U.S. Armed Forces.” (Source: TEA, To the Administrator Addressed: College, Career, or Military Readiness Outcomes Bonus Thresholds. October 29, 2020.)
- Including the Texas National Guard provides greater flexibility in the Outcomes Bonus calculations than what TEA currently allows.

TSA respectfully asks: 1) that the language be expanded to include the Texas National Guard in the CCMR indicators used to calculate the A-F accountability ratings calculations; and 2) confirm with TEA what will be the data source for the Texas National Guard. Members do not want this indicator to be excluded by TEA due a lack of direct data sources, as per the Agency's decision in October.

For further information, please contact Dr. Curtis Culwell, Executive Director, at curtis@texasschoolalliance.org or by telephone at 512.485.7878.

Janette Lindner

Self - parent, spouse, taxpayer, employer, lifelong Texan!

Houston, TX

I disagree with this bill. How would this be enforced? My understanding is the state does not have access to the federal records showing someone is enlisted. This bill might make sense but if there is no way to enforce or validate the student enlists and completes military service, what is the point? The focus should be on ensuring children are prepared for secondary education, and I see military as secondary ed. Instead of making enforcement more complicated, focus on ensuring children learn what they need to according to the TEKS. Then this bill would not be needed.

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