88S30096 MM-F

By:  Gervin-Hawkins H.B. No. 44

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program to provide free public school prekindergarten programs to certain children who are eligible for the subsidized child-care program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter E, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.1537 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.1537.  PREKINDERGARTEN COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD-CARE PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner shall establish and administer a grant program to support school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in increasing partnerships with community-based child-care providers to provide prekindergarten classes under Section 29.153.

(b)  A school district or open-enrollment charter school may apply for a grant under the program in partnership with a community-based child-care provider described by Section 29.153(g).

(c)  A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall use money received under the grant program to fund the enrollment of eligible children in prekindergarten classes provided under Section 29.153 through a partnership between the district or school and a community-based child-care provider described by Section 29.153(g). Notwithstanding Section 29.153(b), a child is eligible for enrollment in a prekindergarten class described by this subsection using money received under the grant program if the child:

(1)  is at least three years of age; and

(2)  receives subsidized child-care services provided through the child-care services program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

(d)  The commissioner may provide grants under the grant program for the enrollment in each school year of not more than 3,500 children in a prekindergarten class described by Subsection (c).

(e)  The agency shall annually report to the legislature regarding the number of children whose enrollment in a prekindergarten class is funded as described by Subsection (c).

SECTION 2.  Section 29.1537, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.