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By:  Guillen H.B. No. 174

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the public school accountability system and the career and technology allotment under the Foundation School Program.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 39.053(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  School districts and campuses must be evaluated based on three domains of indicators of achievement adopted under this section that include:

(1)  in the student achievement domain, indicators of student achievement that must include:

(A)  for evaluating the performance of districts and campuses generally:

(i)  an indicator that accounts for the results of assessment instruments required under Sections 39.023(a), (c), and (l), as applicable for the district and campus, including the results of assessment instruments required for graduation retaken by a student, aggregated across grade levels by subject area, including:

(a)  for the performance standard determined by the commissioner under Section 39.0241(a), the percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the assessment instruments, aggregated across grade levels by subject area; and

(b)  for the college readiness performance standard as determined under Section 39.0241, the percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the assessment instruments, aggregated across grade levels by subject area; and

(ii)  an indicator that accounts for the results of assessment instruments required under Section 39.023(b), as applicable for the district and campus, including the percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the assessment instruments, as determined by the performance standard adopted by the agency, aggregated across grade levels by subject area; and

(B)  for evaluating the performance of high school campuses and districts that include high school campuses, indicators that account for:

(i)  students who satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 51.334 on an assessment instrument in reading or mathematics designated by the coordinating board under that section;

(ii)  students who satisfy relevant performance standards on advanced placement tests or similar assessments;

(iii)  students who earn dual course credits in the dual credit courses;

(iv)  students who enlist in the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard;

(v)  students who earn industry certifications;

(vi)  students admitted into postsecondary industry certification programs that require as a prerequisite for entrance successful performance at the secondary level;

(vii)  students whose successful completion of a course or courses under Section 28.014 indicates the student's preparation to enroll and succeed, without remediation, in an entry-level general education course for a baccalaureate degree or associate degree;

(viii)  students who successfully met standards on a composite of indicators that through research indicates the student's preparation to enroll and succeed, without remediation, in an entry-level general education course for a baccalaureate degree or associate degree;

(ix)  high school graduation rates, computed in accordance with standards and definitions adopted in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.) subject to the exclusions provided by Subsections (g), (g-1), (g-2), (g-3), and (g-4);

(x)  students who successfully completed an OnRamps dual enrollment course;

(xi)  students who successfully completed a practicum or internship approved by the State Board of Education;

(xii)  students who are awarded an associate degree; [~~and~~]

(xiii)  students who successfully completed a program of study in career and technical education; and

(xiv)  students who successfully completed a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program established under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, or another early college high school program;

(2)  in the school progress domain, indicators for effectiveness in promoting student learning, which must include:

(A)  for assessment instruments, including assessment instruments under Subdivisions (1)(A)(i) and (ii), the percentage of students who met the standard for improvement, as determined by the commissioner; and

(B)  for evaluating relative performance, the performance of districts and campuses compared to similar districts or campuses; and

(3)  in the closing the gaps domain, the use of disaggregated data to demonstrate the differentials among students from different racial and ethnic groups, socioeconomic backgrounds, and other factors, including:

(A)  students formerly receiving special education services;

(B)  students continuously enrolled; and

(C)  students who are mobile.

SECTION 2.  Section 39.0544(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  The commissioner shall adopt rules regarding the assignment of campus performance ratings by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools. The rules:

(1)  must require a district or school, in assigning an overall performance rating for a campus, to incorporate:

(A)  domain performance ratings assigned by the commissioner under Section 39.054; [~~and~~]

(B)  performance ratings based on locally developed domains or sets of accountability measures; and

(C)  any distinction designations awarded to the campus under Subchapter G;

(2)  may permit a district or school to assign weights to each domain, [~~or~~] set of accountability measures, or distinction designations described in Subdivision (1), as determined by the district or school, provided that the domains specified in Subdivision (1)(A) must in the aggregate account for at least 50 percent of the overall performance rating;

(3)  must require that each locally developed domain or set of accountability measures:

(A)  contains levels of performance that allow for differentiation, with assigned standards for achieving the differentiated levels;

(B)  provides for the assignment of a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F; and

(C)  meets standards for reliability and validity;

(4)  must require that calculations for overall performance ratings and each locally developed domain or set of accountability measures be capable of being audited by a third party;

(5)  must require that a district or school produce a campus score card that may be displayed on the agency's website; and

(6)  must require that a district or school develop and make available to the public an explanation of the methodology used to assign performance ratings under this section.

SECTION 3.  Section 39.202, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.202.  ACADEMIC DISTINCTION DESIGNATION FOR DISTRICTS AND CAMPUSES.  The commissioner by rule shall establish an academic distinction designation for districts and campuses for outstanding performance in attainment of postsecondary readiness. The commissioner shall adopt criteria for the designation under this section, including:

(1)  percentages of students who:

(A)  performed satisfactorily, as determined under the college readiness performance standard under Section 39.0241, on assessment instruments required under Section 39.023(a), (b), (c), or (l), aggregated across grade levels by subject area; or

(B)  met the standard for annual improvement, as determined by the agency under Section 39.034, on assessment instruments required under Section 39.023(a), (b), (c), or (l), aggregated across grade levels by subject area, for students who did not perform satisfactorily as described by Paragraph (A);

(2)  percentages of:

(A)  students who earned a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license;

(B)  students who completed a coherent sequence of career and technical courses;

(C)  students who completed a dual credit course or an articulated postsecondary course provided for local credit;

(D)  students who achieved applicable College Readiness Benchmarks or the equivalent on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), the American College Test (ACT), or the ACT-Plan assessment program; [~~and~~]

(E)  students who received a score on either an advanced placement test or an international baccalaureate examination to be awarded college credit; and

(F)  students who completed a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program established under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, or another early college high school program; and

(3)  other factors for determining sufficient student attainment of postsecondary readiness.

SECTION 4.  Section 48.106(a-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1)  In addition to the amounts under Subsection (a), for each student in average daily attendance, a district is entitled to $150 [~~$50~~] for each of the following in which the student is enrolled:

(1)  a campus designated as a P-TECH school under Section 29.556; or

(2)  a campus that is a member of the New Tech Network and that focuses on project-based learning and work-based education.

SECTION 5.  This Act applies beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

SECTION 6.  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.