By:  Lopez of Cameron H.B. No. 78

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duties of a public school counselor.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 33.006(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  The primary responsibility of a school counselor is to counsel students to fully develop each student's academic, career, and personal[~~, and social~~] abilities.

(b)  In addition to a school counselor's responsibility under Subsection (a), the school counselor shall:

(1)  participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive developmental school counseling [~~guidance~~] program to serve all students and to address the special needs of students:

(A)  who are at risk of dropping out of school, becoming substance abusers, participating in gang activity, or committing suicide;

(B)  who are at risk of:

(i)  choosing an unhealthy or inappropriate solution to a problem; or

(ii)  engaging in harmful behavior toward the student's self or others;

(C)  who are in need of modified instructional strategies; or

(D)  [~~(C)~~]  who are gifted and talented, with emphasis on identifying and serving gifted and talented students who are educationally disadvantaged;

(2)  consult with a student's parent or guardian and make referrals as appropriate in consultation with the student's parent or guardian;

(3)  consult with school staff, parents, and other community members to help them increase the effectiveness of student education and promote student success;

(4)  coordinate people and resources in the school, home, and community;

(5)  with the assistance of school staff, interpret standardized test results and other assessment data that help a student make educational and career plans;

(6)  deliver classroom guidance activities or serve as a consultant to teachers conducting lessons based on the school's guidance curriculum; and

(7)  serve as an impartial, nonreporting resource for interpersonal conflicts and discord involving two or more students, including accusations of bullying under Section 37.0832.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.