

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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