88R8832 KJE-D

By:  Talarico H.B. No. 2179

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the addition of a service readiness component to the college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonus under the Foundation School Program.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 12.263(e), Education Code, as effective September 1, 2023, is amended to read as follows:

(e)  For purposes of the college, career, [~~or~~] military, or service readiness outcomes bonus under Section 48.110, notwithstanding Subsection (f) of that section, an annual graduate of an adult education program operated under a charter granted under this subchapter demonstrates career readiness by earning an industry-accepted certificate not later than six months after completing the program.

SECTION 2.  The heading to Section 48.110, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 48.110.  COLLEGE, CAREER, [~~OR~~] MILITARY, OR SERVICE READINESS OUTCOMES BONUS.

SECTION 3.  Sections 48.110(b), (c), (d), (f), (g), and (i), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b)  For purposes of the outcomes bonus under this section, the commissioner shall determine the threshold percentage as provided by Subsection (g) for college, career, [~~or~~] military, or service readiness as described by Subsection (f) for each of the following cohorts:

(1)  annual graduates who are educationally disadvantaged;

(2)  annual graduates who are not educationally disadvantaged; and

(3)  annual graduates who are enrolled in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, regardless of whether the annual graduates are educationally disadvantaged.

(c)  Each year, the commissioner shall determine for each school district the minimum number of annual graduates in each cohort described by Subsection (b) who would have to demonstrate college, career, [~~or~~] military, or service readiness as described by Subsection (f) in order for the district to achieve a percentage of college, career, [~~or~~] military, or service readiness for that cohort equal to the threshold percentage established for that cohort under Subsection (b).

(d)  For each annual graduate in a cohort described by Subsection (b) who demonstrates college, career, [~~or~~] military, or service readiness as described by Subsection (f) in excess of the minimum number of students determined for the applicable district cohort under Subsection (c), a school district is entitled to an annual outcomes bonus of:

(1)  if the annual graduate is educationally disadvantaged, $5,000;

(2)  if the annual graduate is not educationally disadvantaged, $3,000; and

(3)  if the annual graduate is enrolled in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, $2,000, regardless of whether the annual graduate is educationally disadvantaged.

(f)  For purposes of this section, an annual graduate demonstrates:

(1)  college readiness if the annual graduate:

(A)  both:

(i)  achieves college readiness standards used for accountability purposes under Chapter 39 on the ACT, the SAT, or an assessment instrument designated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 51.334; and

(ii)  during a time period established by commissioner rule, enrolls at a postsecondary educational institution; or

(B)  earns an associate degree from a postsecondary educational institution approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board while attending high school or during a time period established by commissioner rule;

(2)  career readiness if the annual graduate:

(A)  achieves college readiness standards used for accountability purposes under Chapter 39 on the ACT, the SAT, or an assessment instrument designated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 51.334; and

(B)  during a time period established by commissioner rule, earns an industry-accepted certificate; [~~and~~]

(3)  military readiness if the annual graduate:

(A)  achieves a passing score set by the applicable military branch on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery; and

(B)  during a time period established by commissioner rule, enlists in the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard; and

(4)  service readiness if the annual graduate enrolls in an AmeriCorps program not later than the last day of the seventh month after graduation from high school.

(g)  The commissioner shall establish the threshold percentages under Subsection (b) using the 25th percentile of statewide college, career, [~~or~~] military, or service readiness as described by Subsection (f) for the applicable cohort of annual graduates during the 2016-2017 school year.

(i)  At least 55 percent of the funds allocated under this section must be used in grades 8 through 12 to improve college, career, [~~and~~] military, and service readiness outcomes as described by Subsection (f).

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.