88R13641 ANG-F

By:  Talarico H.B. No. 4469

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prekindergarten programs provided by public schools, including through partnerships with certain community-based child-care providers.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 29.1531(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  A district that offers a prekindergarten program on a tuition basis:

(1)  may not adopt a tuition rate for the program that is higher than necessary to cover the added costs of providing the program, including any costs associated with collecting, reporting, and analyzing data under Section 29.1532(c); [~~and~~]

(2)  must submit the proposed tuition rate to the commissioner for approval; and

(3)  must demonstrate that the capacity of prekindergarten classes provided by existing Head Start or other community-based child-care programs located in the district is insufficient to meet the needs of the district.

SECTION 2.  Section 29.1532(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  A school district that offers prekindergarten classes shall include the following information in the district's Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) report:

(1)  demographic information, as determined by the commissioner, on students enrolled in district and campus prekindergarten classes, including:

(A)  the number of students who are eligible for classes under Section 29.153;

(B)  the number of students enrolled in classes provided by Head Start or another community-based child-care provider through a partnership with the district; and

(C)  the number of students enrolled in prekindergarten classes who are not eligible for prekindergarten classes under Section 29.153;

(2)  the numbers of half-day and full-day prekindergarten classes offered by the district and campus;

(3)  the number of half-day prekindergarten classes for which the district has received an exemption from full-day operation under Section 29.153(d);

(4)  the sources of funding for the prekindergarten classes;

(5)  the class size and ratio of instructional staff to students for each prekindergarten program class offered by the district and campus;

(6)  if the district elects to administer an assessment instrument under Section 29.169 to students enrolled in district and campus prekindergarten program classes, a description and the results of each type of assessment instrument; and

(7)  curricula used in the district's prekindergarten program classes.

SECTION 3.  Section 29.1533, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 29.1533.  ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPANSION OF [~~NEW~~] PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.  Before establishing a new prekindergarten program or expanding an existing prekindergarten program, a school district shall solicit and consider proposals for partnerships to provide [~~consider the possibility of sharing use of an existing Head Start or other child-care program site as a~~] prekindergarten classes with community-based child-care providers who meet the requirements of Section 29.153(g) in a manner that allows the child to enroll in both the school district and the program provided by the community-based child-care provider [~~site~~].

SECTION 4.  Section 29.154, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 29.154.  EVALUATION OF PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.  The commissioner of education, in consultation with the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the commissioners of the Texas Workforce Commission [~~human services~~], shall monitor and annually evaluate prekindergarten programs as to their developmental appropriateness.  The commissioners shall also evaluate the potential for coordination on a statewide basis of prekindergarten programs with community-based [~~government-funded~~] early childhood care and education programs such as child care administered under Chapter 44, Human Resources Code, and federal Head Start programs.  [~~That evaluation shall use recommendations contained in the report to the 71st Legislature required by Chapter 717, Acts of the 70th Legislature, Regular Session, 1987.~~]  For the purpose of providing cost-effective care for children during the full workday with developmentally appropriate curriculum, the commissioners shall investigate the use of existing child-care program sites as prekindergarten sites.  Following the evaluation required by this section, the commissioners, in cooperation with school districts and other program administrators, shall integrate programs, staff, and program sites for prekindergarten, child-care, and federal Head Start programs to the greatest extent possible.

SECTION 5.  Section 29.168(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  The agency shall collaborate with other state agencies, including the Health and Human Services Commission, that provide services for children from birth through five years of age to establish prioritized family engagement strategies to be included in a school district's family engagement plan. A parent-teacher organization, community group, or faith-based institution may submit to the agency recommendations regarding the establishment of family engagement strategies, and the agency, in establishing the family engagement strategies, shall consider any received recommendations. The engagement strategies must:

(1)  be based on empirical research;

(2)  be proven to demonstrate significant positive short-term and long-term outcomes for early childhood education; [~~and~~]

(3)  include programs and interventions that engage a family in supporting a student's learning at home; and

(4)  include strategies for collaborating with Head Start and other community-based child-care programs.

SECTION 6.  Section 29.169(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A school district shall:

(1)  select and implement appropriate methods for evaluating the district's program classes by measuring student progress; [~~and~~]

(2)  make data from the results of program evaluations available to parents; and

(3)  include in evaluating the district's program:

(A)  an analysis of Head Start and other community-based child-care programs in the community with which the district could establish partnerships; and

(B)  strategies identified for collaborating and partnering with Head Start and other community-based child-care programs to provide more options for early learning and improve kindergarten readiness.

SECTION 7.  This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 8.  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 September 1, 2023.