

By: Bucy

H.B. No. 323

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring fine arts as part of the foundation curriculum for public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.002(a) and (n), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A) English language arts;

(B) mathematics;

(C) science; ~~and~~

(D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

(E) fine arts; and

(2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A) to the extent possible, languages other than English;

(B) health, with emphasis on:

(i) physical health, including the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

(ii) mental health, including instruction about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage

emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making; and

(iii) suicide prevention, including recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

(C) physical education;

(D) ~~[fine arts,~~

~~(E)]~~ career and technology education;

(E) ~~(F)]~~ technology applications;

(F) ~~(G)]~~ religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature; and

(G) ~~(H)]~~ personal financial literacy.

(n) The State Board of Education may by rule develop and implement a plan designed to incorporate foundation curriculum requirements into the career and technology education curriculum under Subsection (a)(2)(D) ~~[(a)(2)(E)]~~.

SECTION 2. Section 28.003(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In this section, "educational program" means a course or series of courses in the required curriculum under Section 28.002, other than a fine arts course under Section 28.002(a)(1)(E) ~~[28.002(a)(2)(D)]~~ or a career and technology course under Section 28.002(a)(2)(D) ~~[28.002(a)(2)(E)]~~.

SECTION 3. Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school

1 program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students  
2 successfully complete:

3 (1) four credits in English language arts under  
4 Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one  
5 credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in  
6 an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

7 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section  
8 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in  
9 geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course  
10 authorized under Subsection (b-2);

11 (3) three credits in science under Section  
12 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any  
13 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one  
14 credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional  
15 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

16 (4) three credits in social studies under Section  
17 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at  
18 least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in  
19 economics or personal financial literacy & economics, and one  
20 credit in world geography or world history;

21 (5) except as provided under Subsections (b-12),  
22 (b-13), and (b-14), two credits in the same language in a language  
23 other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A);

24 (6) five elective credits;

25 (7) one credit in fine arts under Section  
26 28.002(a)(1)(E) [~~28.002(a)(2)(D)~~]; and

27 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one

1 credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

2 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024  
3 school year.

4 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.