

AN ACT

relating to the designation of liaison officers to assist certain students at public institutions of higher education who are parents.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9357 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9357. DESIGNATION OF LIAISON OFFICER TO ASSIST CERTAIN STUDENTS WHO ARE PARENTS; REPORT. (a) In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Each institution of higher education shall designate at least one employee of the institution to act as a liaison officer for current or incoming students at the institution who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The liaison officer shall provide to the students information regarding support services and other resources available to the students at the institution, including:

(1) resources to access:

(A) medical and behavioral health coverage and services; and

(B) public benefit programs, including programs

1 related to food security, affordable housing, and housing
2 subsidies;
3 (2) parenting and child care resources;
4 (3) employment assistance;
5 (4) transportation assistance;
6 (5) student academic success strategies; and
7 (6) any other resources developed by the institution
8 to assist the students.

9 (c) Not later than May 1 of each academic year, an
10 institution of higher education shall submit to the coordinating
11 board a report that contains the following information regarding
12 students enrolled at the institution for the current academic year
13 who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of
14 age:

15 (1) the number of those students;
16 (2) demographic data, including age, race, sex, and
17 ethnicity;
18 (3) academic data, including full-time or part-time
19 enrollment status and graduation, transfer, and withdrawal rates;
20 and
21 (4) other data as prescribed by coordinating board
22 rule.

23 (d) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to administer
24 this section, including rules to ensure compliance with federal law
25 regarding confidentiality of student medical or educational
26 information, including the Health Insurance Portability and
27 Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. Section 1320d et seq.), the

1 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C.
2 Section 1232g), and any state law relating to the privacy of student
3 information.

4 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
5 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
6 shall adopt rules to implement Section 51.9357, Education Code, as
7 added by this Act.

8 (b) This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 academic
9 year.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1361 was passed by the House on May 2, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 121, Nays 23, 3 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1361 on May 26, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 116, Nays 25, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1361 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 3.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor