

By: Jetton

H.B. No. 1678

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a local remote learning program offered by a public school for certain students at risk of dropping out of school.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.9092 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.9092. LOCAL REMOTE LEARNING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL. (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may operate a local remote learning program to offer virtual courses outside the state virtual school network under Chapter 30A to eligible students at risk of dropping out of school.

(b) A virtual course offered under the local remote learning program must:

(1) be provided through asynchronous instruction; and  
(2) provide for at least the same number of instructional hours as required for a course offered in a program that meets the required minimum number of minutes of operation under Section 25.081.

(c) A student is eligible to enroll in a virtual course offered under a local remote learning program if:

(1) the student is:  
(A) enrolled at the high school level at a school district or open-enrollment charter school; and

1                   (B) a student at risk of dropping out of school,  
2 as defined by Section 29.081; and

3                   (2) the district or school at which the student is  
4 enrolled determines under Subsection (d)(2) that participation in  
5 the program is suitable for the student.

6                   (d) A school district or open-enrollment charter school  
7 that operates a local remote learning program shall develop a  
8 process to:

9                   (1) identify students who are potentially eligible to  
10 enroll in a virtual course offered under the program; and

11                   (2) screen students identified under Subdivision (1)  
12 to ensure that participation in the program is suitable for the  
13 student based on the student's academic needs and access to  
14 necessary technology.

15                   (e) A school district or open-enrollment charter school  
16 may, but is not required to, provide technological equipment to  
17 students who enroll in a virtual course offered under a local remote  
18 learning program operated under this section.

19                   (f) A student enrolled in a virtual course offered under a  
20 local remote learning program operated under this section shall be  
21 counted toward the school district's or open-enrollment charter  
22 school's average daily attendance in the same manner as other  
23 district or school students. The commissioner shall adopt rules  
24 providing for a method of taking attendance, once each school day,  
25 for students enrolled in a virtual course offered under a local  
26 remote learning program operated under this section.

27                   (g) Chapter 30A does not apply to a virtual course offered

1 under a local remote learning program operated under this section.

2 (h) This section does not prohibit a student enrolled in a  
3 school district or open-enrollment charter school that operates a  
4 local remote learning program under this section from enrolling in  
5 courses offered through the state virtual school network under  
6 Chapter 30A.

7 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024  
8 school year.

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