

By: Lambert

H.B. No. 4383

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures to assist small and rural school districts in implementing a collegiate model and expanding broadband access, including the establishment of the Rural Schools and Communities Technical Assistance Center and a grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 30, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CENTER

Sec. 30.151. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "center" means the Rural Schools and Communities Technical Assistance Center.

Sec. 30.152. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE. The Rural Schools and Communities Technical Assistance Center is established to assist small and rural school districts with the implementation and expansion of the Collegiate Edu-Nation P-20 System Model for 21st Century School Transformation in cooperation with the agency and to further ensure better economic and life opportunities by facilitating the expansion of broadband development in rural communities.

Sec. 30.153. DUTIES OF CENTER. (a) The center shall facilitate the tri-agency alignment for rural students by collaborating with the agency, the Texas Higher Education

1 Coordinating Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission.

2 (b) The center shall assist participating school districts  
3 in implementing the Collegiate Edu-Nation P-20 System Model for  
4 21st-Century School Transformation to:

5 (1) combat generational poverty by fostering high  
6 aspirations and expectations among students, families, and  
7 communities for college and career success, with an emphasis on  
8 workforce shortage areas;

9 (2) support attainment of the state's long-range  
10 master plan for higher education developed under Section 61.051;  
11 and

12 (3) support implementation of the Pathways in  
13 Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs in  
14 participating school districts under Subchapter N, Chapter 29.

15 Sec. 30.154. SELECTION OF CENTER. The commissioner shall  
16 select a nonprofit organization to serve as the center and support  
17 school districts awarded a planning or implementation grant under  
18 this subchapter. The selected nonprofit organization must have:

19 (1) an individual on staff who has previously  
20 implemented a collegiate model in a rural school district; and

21 (2) a demonstrated history of:

22 (A) successfully managing rural schools; and

23 (B) supporting multiple rural school districts  
24 in implementing a collegiate model.

25 Sec. 30.155. PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS. (a) The  
26 commissioner shall annually award planning grants to rural or small  
27 school districts, as determined by commissioner rule, to plan for

1 the implementation of a collegiate model.

2 (b) The agency shall evaluate each school district that  
3 receives a planning grant under Subsection (a). If the agency  
4 determines that the district successfully completed planning  
5 activities, the commissioner shall award the district a one-year  
6 grant to implement a collegiate model.

7 (c) The agency shall evaluate each school district that  
8 receives an implementation grant under Subsection (b). If the  
9 agency determines that the district successfully completed  
10 implementation activities in the first year of implementation, the  
11 commissioner shall award the district an additional one-year  
12 implementation grant.

13 Sec. 30.156. EXPECTED OUTCOMES. (a) By the conclusion of  
14 the second year of implementation of a collegiate model using a  
15 grant awarded under Section 30.155(c), the school district must:

16 (1) have implemented:

17 (A) a dual credit program or a joint high school  
18 and college credit program;

19 (B) a Pathways in Technology Early College High  
20 School (P-TECH) program under Subchapter N, Chapter 29;

21 (C) a research-based college readiness program  
22 for grades 7 through 12;

23 (D) student college and career coaching;

24 (E) a common instructional framework and monthly  
25 instructional review and improvement cycles;

26 (F) project-based learning experiences in a  
27 majority of courses offered by the district;

1 (G) career and technical education programs;

2 (H) work-based learning opportunities, including  
3 paid student apprenticeships in science, technology, engineering,  
4 or mathematics workforce shortage areas;

5 (I) formal industry partnerships specific to  
6 local workforce needs as identified by regional offices of the  
7 Texas Workforce Commission;

8 (J) research-based, nationally norm-referenced  
9 formative assessments; or

10 (K) access to a personal laptop or other  
11 electronic device for each student; and

12 (2) demonstrate progress toward the goal of 90 percent  
13 of graduating students concurrently earning a high school diploma  
14 and an associate degree or an industry-recognized certification by  
15 ensuring that at least 30 percent of high school students enrolled  
16 in the district are enrolled in college courses.

17 (b) If a school district that received a grant under Section  
18 30.155(c) does not achieve the expected outcomes under Subsection  
19 (a), the center shall work with the district to develop and  
20 implement an intervention plan to support the district in achieving  
21 those outcomes.

22 Sec. 30.157. SUPPORT OF RURAL BROADBAND INITIATIVES. Each  
23 school district that receives a grant under Section 30.155 shall  
24 work closely with relevant state agencies to assist in expanding  
25 access, adoption, and use of broadband in rural areas to benefit  
26 educational opportunities and economic development.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.