

By: Talarico

H.B. No. 4469

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to prekindergarten programs provided by public schools,
3 including through partnerships with certain community-based
4 child-care providers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 Sec. 29.154. EVALUATION OF PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS. The
17 commissioner of education, in consultation with the executive
18 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the
19 commissioners of the Texas Workforce Commission ~~[human services]~~,
20 shall monitor and annually evaluate prekindergarten programs as to
21 their developmental appropriateness. The commissioners shall also
22 evaluate the potential for coordination on a statewide basis of
23 prekindergarten programs with community-based ~~[government-funded]~~
24 early childhood care and education programs such as child care
25 administered under Chapter 44, Human Resources Code, and federal
26 Head Start programs. ~~[That evaluation shall use recommendations~~
27 ~~contained in the report to the 71st Legislature required by Chapter~~

1 ~~717, Acts of the 70th Legislature, Regular Session, 1987.]~~ For the
2 purpose of providing cost-effective care for children during the
3 full workday with developmentally appropriate curriculum, the
4 commissioners shall investigate the use of existing child-care
5 program sites as prekindergarten sites. Following the evaluation
6 required by this section, the commissioners, in cooperation with
7 school districts and other program administrators, shall integrate
8 programs, staff, and program sites for prekindergarten,
9 child-care, and federal Head Start programs to the greatest extent
10 possible.

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

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

23 (1) be based on empirical research;
24 (2) be proven to demonstrate significant positive
25 short-term and long-term outcomes for early childhood education;
26 ~~and~~

27 (3) include programs and interventions that engage a

1 family in supporting a student's learning at home; and
2 (4) include strategies for collaborating with Head
3 Start and other community-based child-care programs.

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

6 (a) A school district shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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