

By: Bettencourt, et al.

S.B. No. 8

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to public school accountability and transparency,
3 including the implementation of an instructionally supportive
4 assessment program and the adoption and administration of
5 assessment instruments in public schools, indicators of
6 achievement, public school performance ratings, and interventions
7 and sanctions under the public school accountability system, a
8 grant program for school district local accountability plans, and
9 actions challenging Texas Education Agency decisions related to
10 public school accountability.

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

12 ARTICLE 1. TRANSITION TO INSTRUCTIONALLY SUPPORTIVE ASSESSMENT
13 PROGRAM

14 SECTION 1.001. Section 26.005, Education Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 26.005. ACCESS TO STATE ASSESSMENTS AND ASSESSMENT
17 RESULTS. (a) Except as provided by Section 39.02301(m)
18 [~~39.023(e)~~], a parent is entitled to access to a copy of each state
19 assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023 to the
20 parent's child.

21 (b) The agency shall make available to a parent the results
22 of each state assessment instrument administered under Section
23 39.023 to the parent's child. The results must be accessible by one
24 click from the home page of an Internet website maintained by the

1 agency. Identifying information that is necessary to access a
2 child's results must:

- 3 (1) meet agency security protocols;
4 (2) be unique to the child; and
5 (3) be under the control of the child's parent without
6 the need to secure additional information from a third party.

7 (c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school
8 shall provide to a parent of a child enrolled at the district or
9 school access to the Internet website described by Subsection (b)
10 through a parent portal maintained by the district or school and
11 notify the parent regarding that access each time the agency makes
12 available the results of an assessment instrument administered to
13 the parent's child.

14 SECTION 1.002. Section 39.022, Education Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 39.022. INSTRUCTIONALLY SUPPORTIVE ASSESSMENT
17 PROGRAM. (a) To ensure school accountability for student
18 achievement that achieves the goals provided under Section 4.002,
19 the agency ~~[The State Board of Education by rule]~~ shall create and
20 implement an instructionally supportive ~~[a]~~ statewide assessment
21 program that:

- 22 (1) provides for progress monitoring;
23 (2) is balanced, innovative, and streamlined; and
24 (3) is based on essential knowledge and skills adopted
25 by the State Board of Education under Section 28.002 ~~[knowledge-~~
26 ~~and skills-based to ensure school accountability for student~~
27 ~~achievement that achieves the goals provided under Section 4.002]~~.

1 (b) The primary objective of an instructionally supportive
2 assessment program created and implemented under this section is to
3 benefit the students of this state.

4 (c) The agency ~~[After adopting rules under this section, the~~
5 ~~State Board of Education]~~ shall consider the importance of
6 maintaining stability in the instructionally supportive
7 ~~[statewide]~~ assessment program when modifying the program
8 ~~[adopting any subsequent modification of the rules]~~.

9 (d) [(b)] It is the policy of this state that the
10 instructionally supportive ~~[statewide]~~ assessment program be
11 designed to:

12 (1) provide information regarding student academic
13 achievement and learning progress to:

14 (A) public schools for the purpose of improving
15 student instruction ~~[provide assessment instruments that are as~~
16 ~~short as practicable];~~

17 (B) students, parents, and teachers for the
18 purpose of guiding learning objectives; and

19 (C) education researchers for the purpose of
20 comparing student academic achievement and learning progress data
21 at the national and statewide levels;

22 (2) evaluate the achievement level and learning
23 progress of each assessed student in reading language arts,
24 mathematics, science, and social studies;

25 (3) provide information to the agency for the purpose
26 of making decisions regarding public school accountability, campus
27 recognition, and the improvement of public school operations and

1 management;

2 (4) identify the educational strengths and needs of
3 individual students and the readiness of those students to be
4 promoted to the next grade level or to graduate from high school;

5 (5) assess whether educational goals and curricular
6 standards are being met at the campus, district, and state levels;

7 (6) provide information to help evaluate and develop
8 educational programs and policies; and

9 (7) provide instructional staff with immediate,
10 actionable, and useful information regarding student achievement
11 of standards and benchmarks that may be used to improve the staff's
12 delivery of student instruction [and

13 ~~(2) minimize the disruption to the educational~~
14 ~~program]~~.

15 (e) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school
16 shall administer assessment instruments as required under this
17 chapter in accordance with the instructionally supportive
18 assessment program.

19 SECTION 1.003. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is
20 amended by adding Sections 39.0225 and 39.0226 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 39.0225. TRANSITION OF ASSESSMENT PROGRAM. (a)
22 Except as otherwise provided by this section, not later than the
23 beginning of the 2027-2028 school year, the agency shall transition
24 the program for assessment instruments administered under this
25 subchapter from the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness
26 (STAAR) assessment program to the instructionally supportive
27 assessment program described by Section 39.022.

1 (b) The agency shall contract with a nationally recognized
2 provider of assessment instruments for the purpose of making the
3 transition described by Subsection (a).

4 (c) Students shall continue to be assessed under the State
5 of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) assessment
6 program until the instructionally supportive assessment program
7 described by Section 39.022 is available beginning with the
8 2027-2028 school year.

9 (d) During the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school
10 years, the agency, school districts, and open-enrollment charter
11 schools shall conduct any field testing of questions for assessment
12 instruments proposed to be adopted or developed under Section
13 39.023 necessary to implement the transition under this section.

14 (e) Not later than February 15, 2027, the agency shall
15 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
16 house of representatives, and the chairs of the standing
17 legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over public
18 school assessments a report regarding the status of the
19 implementation of the instructionally supportive assessment
20 program described by Section 39.022.

21 (f) This section expires September 1, 2029.

22 Sec. 39.0226. ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT STUDY. (a) The
23 commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with a
24 public institution of higher education to conduct a study on items
25 proposed to be included in an assessment instrument required to be
26 administered under Section 39.023(a) under the instructionally
27 supportive assessment program described by Section 39.022. The

study must determine whether, for each item that is designed to be on grade level, the item:

(1) is written at a reading level appropriate for students at that grade level; and

(2) includes only:

(A) passages, questions, answers, or other content aligned with the essential knowledge and skills adopted by the State Board of Education under Section 28.002 for the applicable subject for that grade level or a previous grade level; and

(B) passages written at a reading level not higher than that grade level.

(b) Not later than December 1, 2028, the commissioner shall submit to the legislature and the chairs of the standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary education a report that includes the results of the study conducted under Subsection (a).

(c) This section expires December 31, 2028.

SECTION 1.004. Section 39.023, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (a-3), (c), (h), (i), and (l) and adding Subsection (q) to read as follows:

(a) In creating and implementing the instructionally supportive assessment program under Section 39.022, the [The] agency shall adopt or develop appropriate beginning-of-year, middle-of-year, and end-of-year [criterion-referenced] assessment instruments designed to assess essential knowledge and skills in reading language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science.

1 Except as provided by Subsection (a-2), all students, other than
2 students assessed under Subsection (b) or (1) or exempted under
3 Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

4 (1) mathematics, annually in grades three through
5 eight;

6 (2) reading language arts, annually in grades three
7 through eight;

8 (3) social studies, in grade eight;

9 (4) science, in grades five and eight; and

10 (5) any other subject and grade required by federal
11 law.

12 (a-3) The agency may not adopt or develop an [~~a~~
13 ~~criterion-referenced~~] assessment instrument under this section
14 based on common core state standards as defined by Section
15 28.002(b-1). This subsection does not prohibit the use of college
16 advanced placement tests or international baccalaureate
17 examinations as those terms are defined by Section 28.051.

18 (c) The agency shall also adopt or develop end-of-course
19 assessment instruments for secondary-level courses in Algebra I,
20 biology, English I, English II, and United States history and
21 provide for the availability of optional beginning-of-year and
22 middle-of-year assessment instruments for those courses. The
23 Algebra I end-of-course assessment instrument must be administered
24 with the aid of technology, but may include one or more parts that
25 prohibit the use of technology. The English I and English II
26 end-of-course assessment instruments must each assess essential
27 knowledge and skills in both reading and writing and must provide a

1 single score. ~~[A school district shall comply with State Board of~~
2 ~~Education rules regarding administration of the assessment~~
3 ~~instruments listed in this subsection. If a student is in a special~~
4 ~~education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, the student's~~
5 ~~admission, review, and dismissal committee shall determine whether~~
6 ~~any allowable modification is necessary in administering to the~~
7 ~~student an assessment instrument required under this subsection.~~
8 ~~The State Board of Education shall administer the assessment~~
9 ~~instruments. An end-of-course assessment instrument may be~~
10 ~~administered in multiple parts over more than one day. The State~~
11 ~~Board of Education shall adopt a schedule for the administration of~~
12 ~~end-of-course assessment instruments that complies with the~~
13 ~~requirements of Subsection (c-3).]~~

14 (h) The agency shall notify school districts and campuses of
15 the results of assessment instruments administered under this
16 section in accordance with the timeline provided by Section
17 39.02301 ~~[not later than the 21st day after the date the assessment~~
18 ~~instrument is administered]~~. The school district shall:

19 (1) disclose to each district teacher the results of
20 assessment instruments administered to students taught by the
21 teacher in the subject for the school year in which the assessment
22 instrument is administered; and

23 (2) provide to the parent of a student enrolled in the
24 district:

25 (A) the results of each assessment instrument
26 administered under this section to the student; and

27 (B) instructions for accessing any online portal

1 maintained by the agency that provides results of assessment
2 instruments administered to the student.

3 (i) The provisions of this section and Section 39.02301~~[-~~
4 ~~except Subsection (d),]~~ are subject to modification by rules
5 adopted under Section 39.001 ~~[39.022]~~. Each assessment instrument
6 adopted or developed under those rules ~~[and each assessment~~
7 ~~instrument required under Subsection (d)]~~ must be reliable and
8 valid and must meet any applicable federal requirements for
9 measurement of student progress.

10 (1) The agency ~~[State Board of Education]~~ shall adopt rules
11 for the administration of the assessment instruments adopted under
12 Subsection (a) in Spanish to emergent bilingual students in grades
13 three through five, as defined by Section 29.052, whose primary
14 language is Spanish, and who are not otherwise exempt from the
15 administration of an assessment instrument under Section
16 39.027(a)(1) or (2). Each emergent bilingual student whose primary
17 language is Spanish, other than a student to whom Subsection (b)
18 applies, may be assessed using assessment instruments in Spanish
19 under this subsection for up to three years or assessment
20 instruments in English under Subsection (a). The language
21 proficiency assessment committee established under Section 29.063
22 shall determine which students are administered assessment
23 instruments in Spanish under this subsection.

24 (q) The agency shall approve a list of alternative
25 norm-referenced assessment instruments that meet the requirements
26 of this subchapter and that a school district or open-enrollment
27 charter school may administer in place of a beginning-of-year or

middle-of-year assessment instrument adopted or developed under this section. The agency shall:

(1) ensure the list approved under this subsection includes multiple alternative assessment instruments; and

(2) adopt a process by which a school district or open-enrollment charter school may submit to the agency an assessment instrument to be included on the list approved under this subsection.

SECTION 1.005. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.02301 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.02301. ADOPTION OR DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS. (a) An assessment instrument adopted or developed under Section 39.023 must:

(1) measure student performance in relation to the essential knowledge and skills adopted by the State Board of Education under Section 28.002 for the subject area and grade level being assessed;

(2) include items that have been evaluated for readability using research-based readability metrics approved by the agency in consultation with the advisory committees established under Section 39.02302;

(3) meet industry standards of validity and reliability;

(4) comply with applicable requirements under federal law, including peer review requirements; and

(5) be designed to report student academic growth, including by:

1 (A) reporting a student's norm-referenced growth
2 based on a comparison of the student's performance on the
3 assessment instrument to the student's performance on a previously
4 administered assessment instrument, as applicable, to measure
5 through-year growth;

6 (B) for an end-of-year or end-of-course
7 assessment instrument, reporting year-over-year growth in student
8 achievement; and

9 (C) for a beginning-of-year or middle-of-year
10 assessment instrument, being adaptive to each student to measure
11 and report individual student growth.

12 (b) Before an assessment instrument adopted or developed
13 under Section 39.023(a) may be administered under that subsection,
14 the assessment instrument must, on the basis of empirical evidence,
15 be determined to be valid and reliable by the advisory committees
16 established under Section 39.02302 or an entity that is, as
17 determined by the commissioner, independent of the agency and of
18 any other entity that developed the assessment instrument.

19 (c) Before an item may be included on an assessment
20 instrument administered under Section 39.023 that was developed by
21 the agency, the item must be reviewed and approved by a committee
22 composed of teachers in this state. The agency shall form each
23 committee by inviting a total of approximately 40 teachers
24 representing each region of this state who teach the grade level and
25 subject area assessed by the items under review to participate in
26 the committee. For each proposed item, at least three-quarters of
27 participating committee members must agree that:

1 (1) the item is aligned with the essential knowledge
2 and skills adopted by the State Board of Education under Section
3 28.002 for the applicable grade level and subject area;

4 (2) the item is appropriate for the grade level and
5 subject area being assessed and is written at an appropriate
6 reading level for the grade level being assessed;

7 (3) the item is free from bias and factual error; and

8 (4) students in the member's classroom would have an
9 opportunity to learn the content included in the item before the
10 administration of the applicable end-of-year or end-of-course
11 assessment instrument.

12 (d) The writing portion of a reading language arts
13 assessment instrument adopted or developed under Section 39.023
14 must be designed to assess writing using open-ended questions that
15 are:

16 (1) grade-level appropriate;

17 (2) administered separately; and

18 (3) scored using a process that:

19 (A) involves classroom teachers in setting
20 grading standards; and

21 (B) allows for a school district or
22 open-enrollment charter school to submit student responses for
23 rescoring.

24 (e) For an end-of-year or end-of-course assessment
25 instrument adopted or developed under Section 39.023, the agency
26 shall adopt or develop criterion-referenced assessment instruments
27 designed to assess and report student performance for, at minimum,

each performance standard under Section 39.0241.

(f) In setting performance levels for a criterion-referenced assessment instrument adopted or developed under Subsection (e), the commissioner shall implement procedures to maintain the validity and reliability of the assessment instrument, including procedures for field testing items approved by the teacher committees described by Subsection (c). Except as necessary to comply with college readiness recommendations made by the commissioner of higher education under Section 39.0241(a-1), the commissioner shall ensure the performance levels are set at levels consistent with performance levels set for previous school years, including by implementing procedures that equate the performance levels or by conducting standards-setting processes.

(g) On or before September 1 of each year, the commissioner shall make the following information available on the agency's Internet website for each criterion-referenced assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a), (c), or (l):

(1) the number of questions on the assessment instrument;

(2) the number of questions that must be answered correctly to achieve satisfactory performance as determined by the commissioner under Section 39.0241(a);

(3) the number of questions that must be answered correctly to achieve satisfactory performance under the college readiness performance standard as provided by Section 39.0241; and

(4) the corresponding scale scores.

(h) An assessment instrument adopted or developed under

Section 39.023 must be designed to support accommodations for students in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29. If a student is in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee shall determine whether any allowable accommodation is necessary in administering to the student an assessment instrument required under Section 39.023.

(i) The agency shall adopt a schedule for the administration of assessment instruments under Section 39.023 for each school year and provide the schedule to each school district and open-enrollment charter school two years before the school year to which the schedule applies. The schedule must provide for the administration of an assessment instrument within an assessment administration schedule window in the following applicable range:

(1) for a beginning-of-year assessment instrument, between the fourth Monday in August and September 30;

(2) for a middle-of-year assessment instrument, between January 2 and February 21; and

(3) for an end-of-year assessment instrument, between May 1 and May 30, except that the writing portion of an end-of-year reading language arts assessment instrument must be administered between April 1 and April 15.

(j) An assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023 may be administered in multiple parts over more than one day. The agency shall adopt procedures to reduce total administration time.

(k) An assessment instrument adopted or developed under

Section 39.023 must be designed to minimize the impact on student instructional time so that:

(1) for each beginning-of-year or middle-of-year assessment instrument separately administered to students in grades three and four, 85 percent of students who do not require accommodations are expected to complete the assessment instrument within 60 minutes;

(2) for each beginning-of-year or middle-of-year assessment instrument separately administered to students in grades five through eight, 85 percent of students who do not require accommodations are expected to complete the assessment instrument within 75 minutes;

(3) for each end-of-year assessment instrument separately administered to students in grades three and four, 85 percent of students who do not require accommodations are expected to complete the assessment instrument within 90 minutes; and

(4) for each end-of-year assessment instrument separately administered to students in grades five through eight, 85 percent of students who do not require accommodations are expected to complete the assessment instrument within 105 minutes.

(1) The agency shall notify school districts and campuses of the results of assessment instruments administered under Section 39.023 not later than two business days after the date the applicable administration schedule window under Subsection (i) closes. The results should include a diagnostic report for each student and recommendations for use by teachers and parents for practical and useful instructional strategies to better meet the

individual needs of the student based on the student's performance on the assessment instrument.

(m) At least every third year, the agency shall release the questions and answer keys to each end-of-year and end-of-course assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023, excluding any assessment instrument administered to a student for the purpose of retaking the assessment instrument or a question on an assessment instrument that will be reused for other assessment instruments, after the last time the instrument is administered for that school year. To ensure a valid bank of questions for use each year, the agency is not required to release a question that is being field-tested and was not used to compute the student's score on the instrument. The agency may defer releasing questions and answer keys as required by this subsection to the extent necessary to develop additional assessment instruments.

SECTION 1.006. The heading to Section 39.0263, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0263. ADMINISTRATION OF DISTRICT-REQUIRED OR CAMPUS-REQUIRED BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS [~~TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR STATE-ADMINISTERED ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS~~].

SECTION 1.007. Section 39.0263, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(a) In this section, "benchmark assessment instrument" means a district-required or campus-required assessment instrument that is administered to all or most students for a subject or course in a particular grade level and that is not directly linked to

instructional material recently covered in the classroom. The term includes an assessment instrument designed to prepare students for a corresponding state-administered assessment instrument, such as:

(1) a practice test;

(2) a nationally norm-referenced assessment instrument;

(3) a district-created standards assessment; or

(4) a vendor-created assessment of state standards.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a school district or campus may not administer to any student:

(1) in grades three through eight, a benchmark assessment instrument other than an alternative assessment instrument under Section 39.023(q); and

(2) in a grade other than the grades described by Subdivision (1), more than two benchmark assessment instruments during a school year before the administration of an end-of-year or end-of-course ~~[to prepare the student for a corresponding state-administered]~~ assessment instrument.

(c-1) The prohibition prescribed by this section does not apply to an assessment instrument administered during the 2027-2028 or 2028-2029 school year that is under review but not yet approved by the agency for inclusion in the list of approved alternative beginning-of-year and middle-of-year assessment instruments under Section 39.023(q). This subsection expires September 1, 2029.

SECTION 1.008. Section 39.0263(c), Education Code, as amended by S.B. 1418, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The prohibition prescribed by this section does not apply to:

(1) the administration of a college preparation assessment instrument, including the PSAT, the PreACT, the SAT, or the ACT, an advanced placement test, or an international baccalaureate examination;

(2) [~~7~~ or] an independent classroom examination designed or adopted and administered by a classroom teacher;

(3) a diagnostic assessment included in a screening or testing for dyslexia or a related disorder; or

(4) an assessment instrument required under state law, including under Chapter 28 or 29.

SECTION 1.009. Section 39.0301, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a-1) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

(a-1) In establishing procedures under Subsection (a)(1) for the administration of assessment instruments, the commissioner shall ensure that the procedures:

(1) are designed to minimize disruptions to school operations and the classroom environment; and

(2) include instructions to help mitigate potential student test anxiety.

(a-2) In implementing the procedures established under Subsection (a)(1) for the administration of assessment instruments, a school district shall minimize disruptions to school operations and the classroom environment.

SECTION 1.010. Section 39.304, Education Code, is amended

to read as follows:

Sec. 39.304. TEACHER REPORT CARD. ~~[(a)] Each school district shall [prepare a report of the comparisons made under Section 39.034 and provided to the district under Section 39.302 and] provide [the report at the beginning of the school year] to~~

~~[(1)] each teacher~~ the information made available under Section 39.02301(1) for the current and previous school year for all students taught by the teacher~~[, including incoming students,~~ who were assessed on an assessment instrument under Section 39.023~~, and~~

~~[(2) all students under Subdivision (1) who were provided instruction by that teacher in the subject for which the assessment instrument was administered under Section 39.023].~~

~~[(b) The report shall indicate whether the student performed satisfactorily or, if the student did not perform satisfactorily, whether the student met the standard for annual improvement under Section 39.034.]~~

SECTION 1.011. The following provisions of the Education Code are repealed:

(1) Sections 39.023(a-1), (a-4), (a-11), (a-12), (a-13), (a-14), (a-15), (a-16), (c-1), (c-3), (c-6), (c-7), (c-8), (c-10), (d), (e), (e-1), (f), (g), (o), and (p);

(2) Sections 39.025(a-1) and (a-3);

(3) Section 39.026;

(4) Section 39.0262;

(5) Sections 39.034(c), (d), and (d-1);

(6) Section 39.302; and

(7) Section 39.303.

ARTICLE 2. ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTERVENTIONS AND SANCTIONS

SECTION 2.001. Subchapter C, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.0511 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0511. WAIVER REQUEST FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY-RELATED REQUIREMENTS. (a) This section applies to a school district campus in which at least 90 percent of the students receive special education services under Subchapter A, Chapter 29.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall apply to the United States Department of Education for a waiver of requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.) related to the rate of participation in the assessment program and high school graduation rates for each school district campus to which this section applies.

(c) This section expires September 1, 2027.

SECTION 2.002. Section 39.054(b-1), Education Code, is transferred to Section 39.052, Education Code, redesignated as Section 39.052(b-1), Education Code, and amended to read as follows:

(b-1) Consideration of the effectiveness of district programs under Subsection (b)(2)(B) [~~Section 39.052(b)(2)(B)~~] or (C):

(1) must:

(A) be based on data collected through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) for purposes of accountability under this chapter; and

(B) include the results of assessments required under Section 39.023; and

(2) may be based on the results of a special investigation conducted under Section 39.003.

SECTION 2.003. Section 39.053, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (c), and (f) and adding Subsections (c-4), (c-5), (c-6), (f-1), (f-2), (f-3), and (f-4) to read as follows:

(a) The commissioner shall adopt a set of indicators of the quality of learning and achievement, including the indicators under Subsection (c). The commissioner periodically shall review the indicators for the consideration of appropriate revisions and may, if the commissioner determines an indicator otherwise required under this subchapter is not valid or reliable, exclude the indicator from the set of indicators adopted under this section.

(c) School districts and campuses must be evaluated based on three domains of indicators of achievement adopted under this section that include:

(1) in the student achievement domain, indicators of student achievement that must include:

(A) for evaluating the performance of districts and campuses generally:

(i) an indicator that accounts for the results of assessment instruments required under Sections 39.023(a), (c), and (l), as applicable for the district and campus, including the results of assessment instruments required for graduation retaken by a student, aggregated across grade levels by

1 subject area, including:

2 (a) for the performance standard
3 determined by the commissioner under Section 39.0241(a), the
4 percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the
5 assessment instruments, aggregated across grade levels by subject
6 area; and

7 (b) for the college readiness
8 performance standard as determined under Section 39.0241, the
9 percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the
10 assessment instruments, aggregated across grade levels by subject
11 area; and

12 (ii) an indicator that accounts for the
13 results of assessment instruments required under Section
14 39.023(b), as applicable for the district and campus, including the
15 percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the
16 assessment instruments, as determined by the performance standard
17 adopted by the agency, aggregated across grade levels by subject
18 area; and

19 (B) for evaluating the performance of high school
20 campuses and districts that include high school campuses,
21 indicators that account for:

22 (i) students who satisfy the Texas Success
23 Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks prescribed by the
24 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 51.334 on
25 an assessment instrument in reading language arts or mathematics
26 designated by the coordinating board under that section;

27 (ii) students who satisfy relevant

1 performance standards on advanced placement tests or similar
2 assessments;

3 (iii) students who earn dual course credits
4 in the dual credit courses;

5 (iv) students who demonstrate military
6 readiness:

7 (a) through verified enlistment
8 ~~[enlist]~~ in the armed forces of the United States or the Texas
9 National Guard; or

10 (b) by achieving a passing score, set
11 by the commissioner based on recent passing scores set by the
12 branches of the armed forces, on the Armed Services Vocational
13 Aptitude Battery Test and successfully completing a Junior Reserve
14 Officer Training Corps program;

15 (v) students who earn industry
16 certifications;

17 (vi) students admitted into postsecondary
18 industry certification programs that require as a prerequisite for
19 entrance successful performance at the secondary level;

20 (vii) students whose successful completion
21 of a course or courses under Section 28.014 indicates the student's
22 preparation to enroll and succeed, without remediation, in an
23 entry-level general education course for a baccalaureate degree or
24 associate degree;

25 (viii) students who successfully met
26 standards on a composite of indicators that through research
27 indicates the student's preparation to enroll and succeed, without

remediation, in an entry-level general education course for a
baccalaureate degree or associate degree;

(ix) high school graduation rates, computed
in accordance with standards and definitions adopted in compliance
with the Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.)
subject to the exclusions provided by Subsections (g), (g-1),
(g-2), (g-3), and (g-4);

(x) students who successfully completed an
OnRamps dual enrollment course;

(xi) students who successfully completed a
practicum or internship approved by the State Board of Education;

(xii) students who are awarded an associate
degree; and

(xiii) students who successfully completed
a program of study in career and technical education;

(2) in the school progress domain, indicators for
effectiveness in promoting student learning, which must include:

(A) for assessment instruments, including
assessment instruments under Subdivisions (1)(A)(i) and (ii), the
percentage of students who met the standard for improvement, as
determined by the commissioner; and

(B) for evaluating relative performance, the
performance of districts and campuses compared to similar districts
or campuses; and

(3) in the closing the gaps domain, the use of
disaggregated data to demonstrate the differentials among students
from different racial and ethnic groups and [7] socioeconomic

1 backgrounds~~[, and other factors, including:~~

2 ~~[(A) students formerly receiving special~~
3 ~~education services,~~

4 ~~[(B) students continuously enrolled, and~~

5 ~~[(C) students who are mobile].~~

6 (c-4) The agency shall study the college, career, and
7 military readiness indicators adopted under Subsection (c) to
8 determine the correlation of each indicator with postsecondary
9 success, including the correlation of industry certifications with
10 wages and available jobs. The value assigned to each indicator must
11 be:

12 (1) based on the strength of the indicator's
13 correlation with successful outcomes; and

14 (2) updated in accordance with Subsection (f-1).

15 (c-5) The agency shall develop a measure of student
16 through-year instructional growth and improvement from the
17 beginning of the school year through the end of the school year for
18 evaluating the performance of campuses serving grade levels in
19 which beginning-of-year and middle-of-year assessment instruments
20 adopted or developed under Section 39.023 are required to be
21 administered.

22 (c-6) Not later than the 2032-2033 school year, the
23 commissioner shall present the measure described by Subsection
24 (c-5) to the accountability advisory committee established under
25 Section 39.0534 to consider the incorporation of the measure into
26 the indicators described by Subsection (c)(2)(A) and in any other
27 domain or indicator the commissioner considers relevant. Not later

1 than July 15, 2031, the agency shall submit to the governor, the
 2 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
 3 and the chairs of the standing legislative committees with primary
 4 jurisdiction over public school accountability a report regarding
 5 the measure. This subsection expires September 1, 2033.

6 (f) Annually, the commissioner shall define and may modify
 7 the state standards [~~standard for the current school year~~] for each
 8 [~~achievement~~] indicator adopted under this subchapter in
 9 [~~section. In~~] consultation with educators, parents, and business
 10 and industry representatives, as necessary. The [~~, the~~]
 11 commissioner shall increase the rigor by which the commissioner
 12 determines the overall performance ratings under Section 39.054(a)
 13 [~~establish and modify standards~~] to continuously improve student
 14 performance to, not later than the 15th year after the date the
 15 commissioner modifies the performance standards under Subsection
 16 (f-1), achieve the goals of:

17 (1) eliminating achievement gaps based on race,
 18 ethnicity, and socioeconomic status; and

19 (2) ensuring [~~to ensure~~] this state ranks nationally
 20 [~~is a national leader~~] in the top five states in preparing students
 21 for postsecondary success and on the National Assessment of
 22 Educational Progress or its successor assessment.

23 (f-1) Beginning with the indicators adopted for the
 24 2027-2028 school year and as required to meet the goals under
 25 Subsection (f), the commissioner shall increase the scores needed
 26 to achieve performance standards on indicators adopted under this
 27 subchapter only every fifth school year unless an indicator adopted

1 under Subsection (c) requires adjustment before that school year to
2 ensure consistency of performance standards.

3 (f-2) Not later than the 30th day before the date the
4 commissioner adopts a rule modifying the performance standards
5 under Subsection (f-1), the commissioner shall submit to the
6 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
7 representatives, and the chairs of the standing legislative
8 committees with primary jurisdiction over public school
9 accountability a report that:

10 (1) identifies the performance standards being
11 modified;

12 (2) includes a summary of the reasons for the
13 modification of the performance standards;

14 (3) includes the expected impact of the modified
15 performance standards on district and campus performance ratings;
16 and

17 (4) includes information regarding the timeline for
18 and a summary of stakeholder engagement during the development of
19 the modified performance standards.

20 (f-3) For each of the two school years preceding a school
21 year the commissioner increases a score under Subsection (f-1), the
22 commissioner shall report, in a manner that can be reviewed by
23 school administrators, the overall performance of school districts
24 and campuses under that increased score. The agency shall provide
25 copies of the report required under this subsection to the
26 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
27 representatives, and the chairs of the standing legislative

committees with primary jurisdiction over public school accountability.

(f-4) In reporting the performance of school districts and campuses on indicators adopted under this subchapter for a school year in which the score needed to achieve performance standards on one or more of those indicators was increased under Subsection (f-1), the commissioner shall include in the report an informational report on the performance of districts and campuses during the preceding school year under the increased score.

SECTION 2.004. Subchapter C, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 39.0531, 39.0532, and 39.0534 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0531. INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION LIST. (a) The agency shall maintain a list of industry certifications that are eligible for purposes of Section 39.053(c)(1)(B)(v). In developing the list, the agency shall consult with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and consider the inventory of industry-recognized certifications developed under Section 312.003, Labor Code, and the credential library established under Section 2308A.007, Government Code. The certifications must:

(1) be aligned to a program of study that, according to labor market data, prepares students for high-wage, high-skill, in-demand occupations;

(2) allow students to demonstrate mastery of the skills required for occupations within an approved program of study; and

(3) be obtained through an assessment of the knowledge

and skills provided by or determined by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies.

(b) The agency shall review the eligibility of industry certifications under Subsection (a), including whether the programs of study for those certifications still meet the requirements under that subsection:

(1) in consultation with:

(A) the advisory council established under Chapter 312, Labor Code;

(B) the Texas Workforce Commission; and

(C) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

(2) concurrently with the modification of performance standards under Section 39.053(f-1).

(c) If, after reviewing an industry certification under Subsection (b), the agency determines the certification is no longer eligible for purposes of Section 39.053(c)(1)(B)(v) and should be removed from the list maintained under Subsection (a), the agency shall post on the agency's Internet website information regarding the removal of the certification not later than two years before the date the agency intends to remove the certification from the list.

(d) During the three years following an agency's determination under Subsection (c) that an industry certification is no longer eligible for purposes of Section 39.053(c)(1)(B)(v), a school district may receive the benefit of achievement indicators

based on that industry certification for purposes of Section 39.053(c) only for a cohort of students who:

(1) were participating in the program of study aligned with that certification during the school year the agency determines the certification is no longer eligible; and

(2) earn the certification within the three-year period.

Sec. 39.0532. REPORTING OF LOCAL INDICATORS OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. (a) The agency shall collect for reporting purposes only information provided by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools under Subsection (b) regarding local indicators of student engagement and workforce development.

(b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may, but is not required to, provide to the agency information regarding the following indicators at a district or school campus that serves students in prekindergarten through eighth grade:

(1) an indicator that accounts for the percentage of students participating in school-sponsored extracurricular or cocurricular student activities consistent with the findings of the extracurricular and cocurricular student activity indicator study required under Section 39.0533, as that section existed immediately before September 1, 2023;

(2) for campuses that serve students in prekindergarten, an indicator that accounts for student participation in full-day prekindergarten programs;

(3) for campuses that serve students in kindergarten

1 through fifth grade, an indicator that accounts for teacher
2 completion rates of the literacy achievement academies and
3 mathematics achievement academies established under Sections
4 [21.4552](#) and [21.4553](#);

5 (4) an indicator that accounts for students in grades
6 six, seven, and eight who successfully complete a career and
7 technology course approved for purposes of the career and
8 technology education allotment under Section [48.106](#); and

9 (5) an indicator that accounts for students who
10 successfully complete and receive credit for a course designated
11 for a grade higher than the grade in which the student is enrolled.

12 (c) The agency shall post the information collected under
13 Subsection (a) on the Texas School Accountability Dashboard
14 developed under Section [39.309](#).

15 (d) This section may not be construed to limit the authority
16 to modify performance indicators under Section [39.053](#) to include
17 indicators described by this section.

18 Sec. 39.0534. ACCOUNTABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The
19 commissioner shall establish an accountability advisory committee
20 to advise the commissioner and the agency regarding the adoption
21 and modification of performance standards and indicators required
22 under this chapter. The committee must meet at least once during
23 the year preceding the school year for which the commissioner
24 proposes to modify the performance standards under Section
25 [39.053](#)(f-1).

26 (b) The committee must include:

27 (1) a staff member from the office of the governor;

1 (2) a staff member from the office of the lieutenant
2 governor;

3 (3) a staff member from the office of the speaker of
4 the house of representatives;

5 (4) a staff member from the office of each chair of a
6 standing legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over
7 primary and secondary education; and

8 (5) a representative of each stakeholder group
9 described by Section 39.053(f).

10 (c) The committee shall provide minutes of each committee
11 meeting within a reasonable time after the meeting to the governor,
12 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
13 representatives, and each member of the standing legislative
14 committees with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary
15 education.

16 SECTION 2.005. Section 39.054, Education Code, is amended
17 by amending Subsections (a), (a-3), (a-4), and (a-5) and adding
18 Subsections (a-6), (a-7), and (c) to read as follows:

19 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-4), the
20 commissioner shall adopt rules to evaluate school district and
21 campus performance and, each school year, assign each district and
22 campus an overall performance rating of A, B, C, D, or F. In
23 addition to the overall performance rating, each school year, the
24 commissioner shall assign each district and campus a separate
25 domain performance rating of A, B, C, D, or F for each domain under
26 Section 39.053(c). An overall or domain performance rating of A
27 reflects exemplary performance. An overall or domain performance

1 rating of B reflects recognized performance. An overall or domain
2 performance rating of C reflects acceptable performance. An
3 overall or domain performance rating of D reflects performance that
4 needs improvement. An overall or domain performance rating of F
5 reflects unacceptable performance. A district may not receive an
6 overall or domain performance rating of A if the district includes
7 any campus with a corresponding overall or domain performance
8 rating of D or F. If a school district has been approved under
9 Section 39.0544 to assign campus performance ratings and the
10 commissioner has not assigned a campus an overall performance
11 rating of D or F, the commissioner shall assign the campus an
12 overall performance rating based on the school district assigned
13 performance rating under Section 39.0544.

14 (a-3) Except as provided by Subsection (c), not ~~[Not]~~ later
15 than August 15 of each year, the following information shall be made
16 publicly available as provided by rules adopted under this
17 section:

18 (1) the performance ratings for each school district
19 and campus; and

20 (2) if applicable, the number of consecutive school
21 years of unacceptable performance ratings for each district and
22 campus.

23 (a-4) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided
24 by Subsection (a-6), the commissioner may assign a school district
25 or campus an overall performance rating of "Not Rated" if the
26 commissioner determines that the assignment of a performance rating
27 of A, B, C, D, or F would be inappropriate because:

1 (1) the district or campus is located in an area that
2 is subject to a declaration of a state of disaster under Chapter
3 418, Government Code, and due to the disaster, performance
4 indicators for the district or campus are difficult to measure or
5 evaluate and would not accurately reflect quality of learning and
6 achievement for the district or campus;

7 (2) the district or campus has experienced breaches or
8 other failures in data integrity to the extent that accurate
9 analysis of data regarding performance indicators is not possible;

10 (3) the number of students enrolled in the district or
11 campus is insufficient to accurately evaluate the performance of
12 the district or campus; or

13 (4) for other reasons outside the control of the
14 district or campus, the performance indicators would not accurately
15 reflect quality of learning and achievement for the district or
16 campus.

17 (a-5) Notwithstanding any other law, an overall performance
18 rating of "Not Rated" is not included in calculating consecutive
19 school years of unacceptable performance ratings and is not
20 considered a break in consecutive school years of unacceptable
21 performance ratings for purposes of any provision of this code. Any
22 interventions or sanctions to which a school district or campus is
23 subject under Chapter 39A shall continue during a period in which
24 the district or campus is assigned an overall performance rating of
25 "Not Rated."

26 (a-6) The commissioner may not assign an overall
27 performance rating of "Not Rated" to all school districts or all

campuses on a statewide basis.

(a-7) If the agency makes changes to the assessment program under Section 39.022 for assessment instruments administered under this subchapter that require new standards for issuing performance ratings under this section, the agency must conduct a performance comparison analysis between the program as changed and the preceding program to establish roughly comparable standards for issuing performance ratings.

(c) The commissioner shall make the information under Subsection (a-3) available as soon as reasonably possible in years in which the standards are modified or recalibrated or in which a new assessment instrument is offered.

SECTION 2.006. Section 39.0541, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0541. ADOPTION OF INDICATORS AND STANDARDS.

(a) Subject to Subsection (b), the [The] commissioner may adopt indicators and standards under this subchapter at any time [during a school year] before issuing the evaluation of a school district or campus.

(b) If the commissioner does not initially adopt performance standards by the July 15 immediately preceding a school year, district and campus performance ratings for that school year shall be based on the performance standards in effect for the preceding school year.

SECTION 2.007. Section 39.0542(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Not later than July 15 of each [Each school] year, the

1 commissioner shall provide each school district a document in a
2 simple, accessible format that explains the accountability
3 performance standards adopted under Sections 39.0241 and 39.053(f)
4 for the following school year and the measures, methods, and
5 procedures that will be applied for that school year in assigning
6 each school district and campus a performance rating under Section
7 39.054.

8 SECTION 2.008. Section 39.0544, Education Code, is amended
9 by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

10 (f) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the
11 purpose, the agency shall establish a grant program to assist at
12 least one school district in each education service center region
13 in developing a local accountability plan that complies with the
14 requirements of this section.

15 SECTION 2.009. Section 39.201(a), Education Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (a) The ~~[Not later than August 8 of each year, the]~~
18 commissioner shall award distinction designations for outstanding
19 performance as provided by this subchapter concurrently with the
20 assignment of performance ratings under Section 39.054. A
21 distinction designation awarded to a district or campus under this
22 subchapter shall be referenced directly in connection with the
23 performance rating assigned to the district or campus and made
24 publicly available together with the performance ratings as
25 provided by rules adopted under Section 39.054 ~~[39.054(a)]~~.

26 SECTION 2.010. Section 39A.107(c), Education Code, is
27 amended to read as follows:

(c) If the commissioner does not approve a campus turnaround plan, the commissioner shall order:

(1) appointment of a board of managers to govern the school district as provided by Section 39A.202;

(2) alternative management of the campus;

(3) operation of the campus by an entity with which the school district contracts under Section 11.174; or

(4) ~~[(3)]~~ closure of the campus.

SECTION 2.011. Section 39A.108, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39A.108. IMPLEMENTATION OF CAMPUS TURNAROUND PLAN. Subject to Section 39A.110(a), following ~~[Following]~~ approval of a campus turnaround plan by the commissioner, the school district, in consultation with the campus intervention team, shall ~~[may]~~ take any actions needed to implement ~~[prepare for the implementation of]~~ the plan.

SECTION 2.012. Section 39A.110(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) If a campus for which a campus turnaround plan has been ordered under Section 39A.101 receives an acceptable performance rating subsequent to ~~[for the school year following]~~ the order, the ~~[board of trustees of the]~~ school district is no longer required to ~~[may]~~

~~[(1)]~~ implement the campus turnaround plan~~+~~

~~[(2)] implement a modified version of the campus turnaround plan; or~~

~~[(3) withdraw the campus turnaround plan].~~

SECTION 2.013. Subchapter Z, Chapter 39A, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39A.908 to read as follows:

Sec. 39A.908. INTERVENTIONS AND SANCTIONS WHILE ASSIGNMENT OF PERFORMANCE RATINGS ENJOINED. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, during a period in which the agency is enjoined from assigning performance ratings to a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or district or school campus, any previously imposed interventions or sanctions to which the district, school, or campus is subject shall continue throughout that period.

(b) As soon as practicable after the dissolution of an injunction described by Subsection (a), the agency shall:

(1) assign performance ratings for each school year and to each school district, open-enrollment charter school, and district or school campus for which the agency was enjoined from assigning performance ratings; and

(2) as applicable, impose any appropriate interventions or sanctions authorized under this chapter based on the ratings assigned under Subdivision (1).

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, if the agency is permanently enjoined from assigning performance ratings to a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or district or school campus for a school year, the agency shall consider the district, school, or campus to have received a "Not Rated" rating for that school year for purposes of:

(1) calculating consecutive years of performance; and

(2) determining whether to impose an intervention or sanction authorized under this chapter.

1 (d) To ensure the expeditious implementation of
2 interventions or sanctions under this chapter, the agency may
3 modify or waive a deadline or time frame required by law or agency
4 rule applicable to the assignment of performance ratings for a
5 school year for which the agency was enjoined from assigning
6 performance ratings.

7 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (f), the agency shall
8 impose an intervention or sanction described by Subsection (b)(2)
9 or (c)(2) as required by law unless the intervention or sanction, as
10 determined by the commissioner:

11 (1) has been superseded by a subsequent intervention
12 or sanction; or

13 (2) may be removed based on the subsequent performance
14 of a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or district
15 or school campus.

16 (f) The commissioner shall impose an intervention described
17 by Section 12.115(c), 39A.004, or 39A.111, as applicable, on a
18 school district, open-enrollment charter school, or district or
19 school campus if the district, school, or campus would have been
20 subject to commissioner action under the applicable section based
21 on the performance rating of the district, school, or campus for a
22 school year for which the agency was enjoined from assigning
23 performance ratings, regardless of the performance of the district,
24 school, or campus in a subsequent school year.

25 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (h), the commissioner
26 shall revoke a charter holder's charter for an open-enrollment
27 charter school for which the charter holder received a charter

renewal based on the absence of a performance rating for a school year for which the agency was enjoined from assigning a performance rating if, after the assignment of performance ratings for that year, the charter would not have been renewed under Section 12.1141(d), regardless of the performance of the school in a subsequent school year.

(h) Subsection (g) does not apply to a charter holder for which the agency has renewed the charter based on the charter holder entering into and meeting the requirements of a performance agreement with the agency.

SECTION 2.014. Section 312.003(a), Labor Code, as amended by H.B. 2 and H.B. 120, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The advisory council shall develop an inventory of industry-recognized certifications that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program and that:

(1) are aligned to state and regional workforce needs;
~~[and]~~

(2) serve as an entry point to middle- and high-wage jobs; and

(3) meet the requirements of Section 39.0531(a), Education Code.

SECTION 2.015. The following provisions of the Education Code are repealed:

(1) Section 39A.106; and

(2) Section 39A.110(b).

ARTICLE 3. TRANSPARENCY REGARDING PUBLIC SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

SECTION 3.001. Section 7.057(d), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) A person aggrieved by an action of the agency or decision of the commissioner under this section may appeal to a district court in Travis County. An appeal must be made by serving the commissioner with citation issued and served in the manner provided by law for civil suits. The petition must state the action or decision from which the appeal is taken. At trial, the court shall determine all issues of law and fact, except as provided by Section 33.081(g).

SECTION 3.002. The heading to Section 39.001, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.001. RULES; ACTION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT.

SECTION 3.003. Section 39.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school must bring an action for declaratory judgment under Section 2001.038, Government Code, challenging the validity or applicability of a rule adopted under this chapter or Chapter 39A not later than six months after the date the rule is adopted.

SECTION 3.004. Subchapter A, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.009. COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN CHAPTER REQUIREMENTS; LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT. (a) Failure to comply with a requirement of Subchapter B, C, or D:

(1) does not prevent:

1 (A) the administration of a statewide assessment
2 instrument required under Subchapter B; or

3 (B) the assignment of performance ratings under
4 Section 39.054; and

5 (2) may not be the basis of a challenge to:

6 (A) a performance rating assigned under Section
7 39.054; or

8 (B) an intervention or sanction imposed under
9 this chapter or Chapter 39A.

10 (b) Each standing legislative committee with primary
11 jurisdiction over primary and secondary education shall establish a
12 process to receive information regarding a failure to comply with a
13 requirement of Subchapter B, C, or D and may require the agency to
14 provide justification for that failure. The agency must notify
15 each committee if the agency is aware that the commissioner or
16 agency has failed to meet a deadline or other requirement under
17 Subchapter B, C, or D.

18 SECTION 3.005. Section 39.151(e), Education Code, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (e) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may
21 not challenge on any basis, including a lack of commissioner or
22 agency authority, an agency decision relating to an academic or
23 financial accountability rating under this chapter, including a
24 decision relating to a determination of consecutive school years of
25 unacceptable performance ratings, in another proceeding unless
26 ~~[if]~~ the district or school has exhausted the district's or school's
27 remedies ~~[had an opportunity to challenge the decision]~~ under this

1 section.

2 SECTION 3.006. Section 45.105(c-1), Education Code, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (c-1) Notwithstanding any other law, federal, state, or
5 local funding, including funding under Chapters 46, 48, and 49,
6 ~~[Funds described by Subsection (c)]~~ may not be used to initiate or
7 maintain any action or proceeding against the state or an agency or
8 officer of the state, including an action or proceeding that
9 includes a claim of ultra vires conduct ~~[arising out of a decision,~~
10 ~~order, or determination that is final and unappealable under a~~
11 ~~provision of this code]~~, except that funds may be used for an action
12 or proceeding that is specifically authorized by a provision of
13 this code or by Section 2001.038, Government Code ~~[a rule adopted~~
14 ~~under this code and that results in a final and unappealable~~
15 ~~decision, order, or determination]~~.

16 ARTICLE 4. CONFORMING CHANGES AND CHANGES RELATED TO TRANSITION OF
17 ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

18 SECTION 4.001. Section 7.056(e), Education Code, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (f), a school campus or
21 district may not receive an exemption or waiver under this section
22 from:

23 (1) a prohibition on conduct that constitutes a
24 criminal offense;

25 (2) a requirement imposed by federal law or rule,
26 including a requirement for special education or bilingual
27 education programs; or

1 (3) a requirement, restriction, or prohibition
2 relating to:

3 (A) essential knowledge or skills under Section
4 28.002 or high school graduation requirements under Section 28.025;

5 (B) public school accountability as provided by
6 Subchapters B, C, D, and J, Chapter 39, and Chapter 39A;

7 (C) extracurricular activities under Section
8 33.081 [~~or participation in a University Interscholastic League~~
9 ~~area, regional, or state competition under Section 33.0812~~];

10 (D) health and safety under Chapter 38;

11 (E) purchasing under Subchapter B, Chapter 44;

12 (F) elementary school class size limits, except
13 as provided by Section 25.112;

14 (G) removal of a disruptive student from the
15 classroom under Subchapter A, Chapter 37;

16 (H) at-risk programs under Subchapter C, Chapter
17 29;

18 (I) prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E,
19 Chapter 29;

20 (J) educator rights and benefits under
21 Subchapters A, C, D, E, F, G, and I, Chapter 21, or under Subchapter
22 A, Chapter 22;

23 (K) special education programs under Subchapter
24 A, Chapter 29;

25 (L) bilingual education programs under
26 Subchapter B, Chapter 29; or

27 (M) the requirements for the first day of

instruction under Section 25.0811.

SECTION 4.002. Section 11.185(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Each plan adopted under Subsection (a) must:

(1) identify annual goals for students in each group evaluated under the closing the gaps domain under Section 39.053(c)(3);

(2) include annual goals for aggregate student growth on the third grade reading language arts or mathematics assessment instrument, as applicable, administered under Section 39.023 or on an alternative assessment instrument determined by the board of trustees;

(3) provide for targeted professional development for classroom teachers in kindergarten or first, second, or third grade who are assigned to campuses that the board of trustees identifies as not meeting the plan's goals;

(4) assign at least one district-level administrator or employee of the regional education service center for the district's region to:

(A) coordinate implementation of the plan; and

(B) submit an annual report to the board of trustees on the district's progress toward the goals set under the plan; and

(5) be reviewed annually by the board of trustees at a public meeting.

SECTION 4.003. Section 21.4552(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selecting
2 teachers who may attend a literacy achievement academy. In
3 adopting selection criteria under this subsection, the
4 commissioner shall:

5 (1) require a teacher to attend a literacy achievement
6 academy if the teacher provides instruction in reading,
7 mathematics, science, or social studies to students at the sixth,
8 seventh, or eighth grade level at a campus that fails to satisfy any
9 standard under Section 39.054(e) on the basis of student
10 performance on the reading language arts assessment instrument
11 administered under Section 39.023(a) to students in any grade level
12 at the campus;

13 (2) grant priority to teachers employed by a school
14 district at a campus at which 50 percent or more of the students
15 enrolled are educationally disadvantaged; and

16 (3) provide a process through which a teacher not
17 employed at a campus described by Subdivision (2) may attend the
18 academy if the academy has available space and the school district
19 employing the teacher pays the costs of the teacher's attendance.

20 SECTION 4.004. Sections 28.0063(b) and (f), Education Code,
21 as added by H.B. 2, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session,
22 2025, are amended to read as follows:

23 (b) A reading or mathematics instrument adopted under
24 Subsection (a) must:

25 (1) be based on scientific research concerning, as
26 applicable:

27 (A) foundational literacy skills in reading

development and comprehension; or

(B) foundational numeracy skills in mathematics;

(2) be capable of being administered at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year;

(3) be designed to assess the performance of students in, as applicable:

(A) the foundational literacy skills components of the essential knowledge and skills adopted under Section 28.002 for language arts; or

(B) the foundational numeracy skills components of the essential knowledge and skills adopted under Section 28.002 for mathematics;

(4) be capable of monitoring student progress in a manner that allows school district staff to identify specific foundational literacy or numeracy skills in need of targeted instruction;

(5) assess whether a student's skills identified as in need of targeted instruction indicate that the student is at risk, as determined by the agency, of not achieving satisfactory performance on the third grade reading language arts or mathematics assessment administered under Section 39.023;

(6) for a reading instrument for students in kindergarten and first grade, include the applicable elements and criteria to serve as the required screenings for dyslexia and related disorders under Section 38.003; and

(7) for a reading instrument, allow a school district to generate a report regarding a student's reading progress,

including progress from previous administrations of the same instrument, that is clear and easy to understand that may be distributed to the student's parent in English, Spanish, or, to the extent practicable, any other language spoken by the parent.

(f) If the commissioner determines that a beginning-of-year or middle-of-year ~~[an interim]~~ assessment instrument adopted or developed under Section 39.023 ~~[39.023(e)]~~ provides the same intended outcomes as an instrument adopted or approved under this section, the commissioner may substitute that beginning-of-year or middle-of-year ~~[interim]~~ assessment instrument for an instrument adopted or approved under this section.

SECTION 4.005. Sections 28.0211(a-8) and (o), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a-8) A school district may not be required to provide supplemental instruction under Subsection (a-1)(2) to a student in more than two subject areas per school year. If the district would otherwise be required to provide supplemental instruction to a student in more than two subject areas for a school year, the district shall prioritize providing supplemental instruction to the student in mathematics and reading language arts, or Algebra I, English I, or English II, as applicable, for that school year.

(o) This section does not require the administration of a fifth or eighth grade assessment instrument in a subject under Section 39.023(a) to a student enrolled in the fifth or eighth grade, as applicable, if the student:

(1) is enrolled in a course in the subject intended for students above the student's grade level and will be administered

1 an assessment instrument adopted or developed under Section
2 39.023(a) that aligns with the curriculum for the course in which
3 the student is enrolled; or

4 (2) is enrolled in a course in the subject for which
5 the student will receive high school academic credit and will be
6 administered an end-of-course assessment instrument adopted or
7 developed under Section 39.023(c) for the course.

8 SECTION 4.006. Section 28.023(c), Education Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (c) A school district shall give a student in grade level
11 six or above credit for a subject on the basis of an examination for
12 credit in the subject approved by the board of trustees under
13 Subsection (a) if the student scores in the 80th percentile or above
14 on the examination or if the student achieves a score as provided by
15 Subsection (c-1). If a student is given credit in a subject on the
16 basis of an examination, the district shall enter the examination
17 score on the student's transcript and the student is not required to
18 take an end-of-course assessment instrument adopted or developed
19 under Section 39.023(c) for that subject.

20 SECTION 4.007. Section 29.056(g), Education Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (g) A district may transfer an emergent bilingual student
23 out of a bilingual education or special language program for the
24 first time or a subsequent time if the student is able to
25 participate equally in a regular all-English instructional program
26 as determined by:

27 (1) agency-approved tests administered at the end of

1 each school year to determine the extent to which the student has
2 developed oral and written language proficiency and specific
3 language skills in English;

4 (2) satisfactory performance on the reading language
5 arts assessment instrument under Section 39.023(a) or an English
6 language arts assessment instrument under Section 39.023(c), as
7 applicable, with the assessment instrument administered in
8 English, or, if the student is enrolled in the first or second
9 grade, an achievement score at or above the 40th percentile in the
10 reading and language arts sections of an English standardized test
11 approved by the agency; and

12 (3) agency-approved criterion-referenced tests and
13 the results of a subjective teacher evaluation.

14 SECTION 4.008. Section 29.1543(a), Education Code, as added
15 by H.B. 2, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (a) The agency shall produce and make available to the
18 public on the agency's Internet website annual district and
19 campus-level reports containing information from the previous
20 school year on early education in school districts and
21 open-enrollment charter schools. A report under this section must
22 contain:

23 (1) the information required by Section 29.1532(c) to
24 be reported through the Public Education Information Management
25 System (PEIMS);

26 (2) a description of the reading instruments
27 administered in accordance with Section 28.006(c-2);

1 (3) the number of students who were administered a
2 reading instrument administered in accordance with Section
3 28.006(c-2);

4 (4) the number of students whose scores from a reading
5 instrument administered in accordance with Section 28.006(c-2)
6 indicate kindergarten readiness in reading;

7 (5) the number of kindergarten students who were
8 enrolled in a prekindergarten program, including a program offered
9 through a partnership under Section 29.153, in the previous school
10 years in the same district or school as the district or school in
11 which the student attends kindergarten;

12 (6) the number and percentage of students who perform
13 satisfactorily on the third grade reading language arts or
14 mathematics assessment instrument administered under Section
15 39.023, disaggregated by whether the student was eligible for free
16 prekindergarten under Section 29.153;

17 (7) the number of students described by Subdivision
18 (6) who attended kindergarten in the district, disaggregated by:

19 (A) whether the student met the kindergarten
20 readiness standard on a reading instrument adopted under Section
21 28.006;

22 (B) whether the student attended prekindergarten
23 in the district, including a program offered through a partnership
24 under Section 29.153; and

25 (C) the type of prekindergarten the student
26 attended, if applicable;

27 (8) the information described by Subdivisions (6) and

(7) disaggregated by whether the student is educationally disadvantaged; and

(9) the number of students identified as having a vision disorder or other vision problem requiring vision care under the screening program described by Section 36.004, Health and Safety Code, disaggregated by:

(A) grade level;

(B) gender;

(C) race;

(D) ethnicity;

(E) the student's status as educationally disadvantaged;

(F) the number of times the student was previously identified as having a vision disorder or other vision problem;

(G) the identified vision disorder or problem;

and

(H) the type of screening equipment used for the screening.

SECTION 4.009. Sections 39.02342(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Subject to Subsection (c) and notwithstanding Section 39.023, a school district may administer in paper format a nonadaptive assessment instrument adopted or developed by the agency as a substitute for an assessment instrument required under Section 39.023(a), (c), or (l) ~~[in paper format]~~ to any student whose parent, guardian, or teacher in the applicable subject area

requests the assessment instrument be administered to the student in paper format.

(b) A request for the administration of an assessment instrument in paper format to a student under this section must be submitted to the school district not later than a reasonable date as determined by the agency, which must be not later than the 60th day before the date the applicable assessment administration schedule window under Section 39.02301(i) closes[+]

~~[(1) for a fall administration of an assessment instrument, not later than September 15 of the school year in which the assessment instrument will be administered; and~~

~~[(2) for a spring administration of an assessment instrument, not later than December 1 of the school year in which the assessment instrument will be administered].~~

SECTION 4.010. Section 39.0236, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The agency shall implement the pilot program established under this section beginning with the 2028-2029 school year. This subsection expires September 1, 2029.

SECTION 4.011. Section 39.0238(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school may consider the dates of religious holy days or periods of observance likely to be observed by the students enrolled in the district or school during the ~~[period set by the State Board of Education for the administration of]~~ assessment administration schedule window

1 ~~[instruments required]~~ under Section 39.02301(i) ~~[39.023]~~ in
2 establishing:

3 (1) the district's or school's calendar for that
4 school year; and

5 (2) the instructional days within that period on which
6 district or school students are administered the required
7 assessment instruments, provided that the board of trustees or
8 governing body may not exclude more than two instructional days
9 from that period based solely on the occurrence of a single
10 religious holy day or period of observance.

11 SECTION 4.012. Sections 39.025(b), (e-1), and (f),
12 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

13 (b) Each time an end-of-course assessment instrument
14 adopted or developed under Section 39.023(c) is administered, a
15 student who failed to achieve a score requirement under Subsection
16 (a) may retake the assessment instrument. A student is not required
17 to retake a course as a condition of retaking an end-of-course
18 assessment instrument.

19 (e-1) Nothing in this section has the effect of prohibiting
20 the administration of an end-of-course assessment instrument
21 listed in Section 39.023(c) to a student enrolled below the high
22 school level who is enrolled in the course for which the assessment
23 instrument is adopted or developed. The commissioner shall adopt
24 rules necessary to ensure that the student's performance on the
25 assessment instrument is considered in the same manner for purposes
26 of this section as the performance of a student enrolled at the high
27 school level.

1 (f) The commissioner shall by rule adopt a transition plan
2 to implement the amendments made by Chapter 1312 (S.B. No. 1031),
3 Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, replacing
4 general subject assessment instruments administered at the high
5 school level with end-of-course assessment instruments. The rules
6 must provide for the end-of-course assessment instruments adopted
7 or developed under Section 39.023(c) to be administered beginning
8 with students enrolled in the ninth grade for the first time during
9 the 2011-2012 school year. During the period under which the
10 transition to end-of-course assessment instruments is made:

11 (1) for students entering a grade above the ninth
12 grade during the 2011-2012 school year or students repeating ninth
13 grade during the 2011-2012 school year, the commissioner shall
14 retain, administer, and use for purposes of accreditation and other
15 campus and district accountability measures under this chapter the
16 assessment instruments required by Section 39.023(a) or (c), as
17 that section existed before amendment by Chapter 1312 (S.B.
18 No. 1031), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007; and

19 (2) a student subject to Subdivision (1) may not
20 receive a high school diploma unless the student has performed
21 satisfactorily on the SAT, the ACT, the Texas Success Initiative
22 (TSI) diagnostic assessment, or the current assessment instrument
23 or instruments administered for graduation purposes as provided by
24 Subsection (f-1) or on each required assessment instrument
25 administered under Section 39.023(c), as that section existed
26 before amendment by Chapter 1312 (S.B. No. 1031), Acts of the 80th
27 Legislature, Regular Session, 2007.

SECTION 4.013. Section 39.027(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The agency [~~State Board of Education~~] shall adopt rules under which a dyslexic student who is not exempt under Subsection (a) may use procedures including oral examinations if appropriate or may be allowed additional time or the materials or technology necessary for the student to demonstrate the student's mastery of the competencies the assessment instruments are designed to measure.

SECTION 4.014. Section 39.030(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In adopting academic skills assessment instruments under this subchapter, the agency [~~State Board of Education~~] or a school district shall ensure the security of the instruments and tests in their preparation, administration, and grading. Meetings or portions of meetings held by the agency [~~State Board of Education~~] or a school district at which individual assessment instruments or assessment instrument items are discussed or adopted are not open to the public under Chapter 551, Government Code, and the assessment instruments or assessment instrument items are confidential.

SECTION 4.015. Section 39.031, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.031. COST. The cost of preparing, administering, or grading the assessment instruments and releasing the question and answer keys under Section 39.02301(m) [~~39.023(e)~~] shall be paid from amounts appropriated to the agency.

SECTION 4.016. Section 39.035(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Subject to Subsection (b), the agency may conduct field testing of questions for any assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a), (b), (c), ~~[(d),]~~ or (l) that is separate from the administration of the assessment instrument not more frequently than every other school year.

SECTION 4.017. Section 39.202, Education Code, as amended by S.B. 1418, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.202. ACADEMIC DISTINCTION DESIGNATION FOR DISTRICTS AND CAMPUSES. The commissioner by rule shall establish an academic distinction designation for districts and campuses for outstanding performance in attainment of postsecondary readiness. The commissioner shall adopt criteria for the designation under this section, including:

(1) percentages of students who:

(A) performed satisfactorily, as determined under the college readiness performance standard under Section 39.0241, on assessment instruments required under Section 39.023(a), (b), (c), or (l), aggregated across grade levels by subject area; or

(B) met the standard for annual improvement, as determined by the agency ~~[under Section 39.034]~~, on assessment instruments required under Section 39.023(a), (b), (c), or (l), aggregated across grade levels by subject area, for students who did not perform satisfactorily as described by Paragraph (A);

(2) percentages of:

(A) students who earned a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license;

(B) students who completed a coherent sequence of career and technical courses;

(C) students who completed a dual credit course or an articulated postsecondary course provided for local credit;

(D) students who achieved applicable College Readiness Benchmarks or the equivalent on the PSAT, the SAT, the ACT, or the PreACT assessment program; and

(E) students who received a score on either an advanced placement test or an international baccalaureate examination to be awarded college credit; and

(3) other factors for determining sufficient student attainment of postsecondary readiness.

SECTION 4.018. Section 39.203(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commissioner shall award a campus a distinction designation for outstanding performance in improvement in student achievement if the campus is ranked in the top 25 percent of campuses in the state in annual improvement in student achievement as determined by the commissioner [~~under Section 39.034~~].

SECTION 4.019. Section 39A.064(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding [~~Section 39A.0545(b) or~~] any other law, the commissioner may require a school district or open-enrollment

1 charter school to comply with all requirements of the strong
2 foundations grant program under Section 29.0881 at a campus that:

3 (1) includes students at any grade level from
4 prekindergarten through fifth grade;

5 (2) is assigned an overall performance rating of D or
6 F; and

7 (3) is in the bottom five percent of campuses in the
8 state based on student performance on the grade three reading
9 language arts assessment administered under Section 39.023(a)
10 during the previous school year, as determined by the commissioner.

11 SECTION 4.020. Effective September 1, 2026, Section
12 48.317(c), Education Code, as added by H.B. 2, Acts of the 89th
13 Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1,
14 2026, is amended to read as follows:

15 (c) Subject to Subsection (d), beginning with the 2030-2031
16 school year, the agency shall reduce the school district's
17 entitlement under this chapter each school year by the total amount
18 of grant money received by a student under Subsection (a) for each
19 student who:

20 (1) fails to perform satisfactorily on the third grade
21 reading language arts assessment instrument administered under
22 Section 39.023(a);

23 (2) received and used a grant under Section 28.02111;
24 and

25 (3) was enrolled in the district from kindergarten
26 through third grade.

27 SECTION 4.021. The following provisions of the Education

Code are repealed:

- (1) Section 33.0812;
- (2) Section 39.029; and
- (3) Section 39.032.

ARTICLE 5. TRANSITION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 5.001. A rule of the State Board of Education under Section 39.022, Education Code, that is in effect on the effective date of this Act remains in effect until changed by the commissioner of education in accordance with that section as amended by this Act.

SECTION 5.002. The changes in law made by Section 39.009(a), Education Code, as added by this Act, and Sections 39.053(a), 39.054, and 39.0541, Education Code, as amended by this Act, apply to an action or determination related to public school accountability and accountability ratings beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, regardless of whether the action or determination occurred before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 5.003. (a) Section 39.023(i), Education Code, as amended by this Act, and the repeal by this Act of Sections 39.023(c-3), (c-7), and (c-10), Education Code, apply beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this Act, Sections 7.056, 28.0063, 39.022, 39.023, 39.02342, 39.0263, 39.031, 39.035, 39.202, 39.203, and 39.304, Education Code, as amended by this Act, Sections 39.02301 and 39.053(c-5), Education Code, as added by this Act, and the repeal by this Act of Sections 33.0812, 39.025(a-1) and (a-3), 39.026, 39.0262, 39.029, 39.032, 39.034(c), (d), and (d-1),

1 39.302, and 39.303, Education Code, apply beginning with the
2 2027-2028 school year.

3 (c) Except as otherwise provided by this Act, the changes in
4 law made by Section 39.053, Education Code, as amended by this Act,
5 and Section 39.0531, Education Code, as added by this Act, apply to
6 accountability ratings beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

7 SECTION 5.004. The changes in law made by Sections 39A.108
8 and 39A.110(a), Education Code, as amended by this Act, apply to a
9 campus for which a campus turnaround plan has been ordered before,
10 on, or after the effective date of this Act.

11 SECTION 5.005. Except as otherwise provided by this Act,
12 this Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of
13 two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by
14 Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not
15 receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes
16 effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative
17 session.