

By: Lopez of Bexar

H.B. No. 225

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program to provide grants for free or reduced-tuition prekindergarten classes to certain children.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.1535 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.1535. FREE AND REDUCED-TUITION PREKINDERGARTEN GRANT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the commissioner, in collaboration with the Pre-K 4 SA early childhood initiative, shall establish and administer a pilot program to provide grants to school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and private schools to provide free or reduced-tuition prekindergarten classes to eligible children.

(b) A school district, open-enrollment charter school, or private school shall use money received under the pilot program to provide free or reduced-tuition prekindergarten classes to eligible children.

(c) A child is eligible to enroll in a prekindergarten class described by Subsection (b) if the child:

(1) is at least three years of age; and

(2) resides in the regional boundaries of the Region 20 education service center.

(d) To the extent consistent with state and federal law, a

1 prekindergarten class provided using money received under the pilot
2 program must be operated in accordance with any curriculum and
3 teaching methods implemented by the Pre-K 4 SA early childhood
4 initiative.

5 (e) Not later than September 1 of each year, the
6 commissioner shall prepare and submit to the legislature a report
7 on the pilot program under this section. The report must include:

8 (1) an evaluation of the academic and developmental
9 achievements of students enrolled in a prekindergarten class using
10 money received under the pilot program; and

11 (2) any recommendations for legislative or other
12 action.

13 (f) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to
14 establish and administer the pilot program under this section.

15 (g) The pilot program is abolished and this section expires
16 January 1, 2031.

17 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2026, the
18 commissioner of education shall submit the initial report required
19 by Section 29.1535, Education Code, as added by this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
21 school year.

22 SECTION 4. 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, 2025.