

1-1 By: Bucy, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Menéndez) H.B. No. 2081
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2025;
1-3 May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education
1-4 K-16; May 8, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 8, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the establishment of the Building Better Futures
1-22 Program to support educational and occupational skills training
1-23 opportunities and support services for students with intellectual
1-24 and developmental disabilities at public and private institutions
1-25 of higher education.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. Chapter [61](#), Education Code, is amended by adding
1-28 Subchapter J-2 to read as follows:

1-29 SUBCHAPTER J-2. BUILDING BETTER FUTURES PROGRAM

1-30 Sec. 61.571. PROGRAM PURPOSE. The purpose of the Building
1-31 Better Futures Program is to facilitate the delivery by
1-32 institutions of higher education and private or independent
1-33 institutions of higher education of educational and occupational
1-34 skills training opportunities and support services to students with
1-35 intellectual and developmental disabilities in an inclusive and
1-36 age-appropriate environment.

1-37 Sec. 61.572. ADMINISTRATION; RULES. (a) The board shall
1-38 administer the Building Better Futures Program and adopt any rules
1-39 necessary to implement the program or this subchapter.

1-40 (b) The board may develop a competitive application process
1-41 for the award of funds to eligible institutions under the program.

1-42 (c) A program or course offered under the Building Better
1-43 Futures Program is exempt from the requirements of Sections [61.0512](#)
1-44 and [61.822](#).

1-45 Sec. 61.573. INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible
1-46 to participate in the Building Better Futures Program, an
1-47 institution of higher education or private or independent
1-48 institution of higher education must:

1-49 (1) be approved by or awaiting approval from the
1-50 United States Department of Education to offer a comprehensive
1-51 transition and postsecondary program for students with
1-52 intellectual or developmental disabilities;

1-53 (2) develop and implement a selective admissions
1-54 process to select eligible students under Section 61.574 for
1-55 admission to the institution's comprehensive transition and
1-56 postsecondary program; and

1-57 (3) award a certificate to each student who
1-58 successfully completes the Building Better Futures Program at the
1-59 institution.

1-60 (b) The board shall establish criteria to ensure that each
1-61 eligible institution that has requested but not yet received
1-62 approval from the United States Department of Education for the
1-63 institution's comprehensive transition and postsecondary program
1-64 obtains that approval not later than the third anniversary of the

date the institution is initially selected by the board for participation in the Building Better Futures Program.

Sec. 61.574. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible to participate in the Building Better Futures Program, an applicant must:

(1) apply for admission to a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program, or a program that is awaiting approval from the United States Department of Education as a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program, at an eligible institution;

(2) be a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States;

(3) subject to Subsection (d), be a resident of this state as determined under Section 54.052;

(4) have an intellectual or developmental disability diagnosed by a physician, psychologist, or other individual qualified by license or statute to make the diagnosis;

(5) be able and willing to learn and participate in an inclusive classroom and work setting; and

(6) not be a danger to the applicant's self or others, as determined by the accepting institution.

(b) An applicant who is a lawful permanent resident of the United States must submit with the applicant's application a copy of the applicant's lawful permanent resident form.

(c) An eligible institution may require an applicant or the applicant's parent or guardian to provide proof of residency as follows:

(1) information from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;

(2) a current driver's license issued by the Department of Public Safety;

(3) documentation of payment of personal or real property taxes for the previous year;

(4) current vehicle registration issued by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles;

(5) a current voter registration certificate issued by a voter registrar of a county in this state; or

(6) documentation described by Section 54.053.

(d) An applicant who is not a resident of this state may participate in the Building Better Futures Program at an eligible institution only if the applicant is otherwise eligible under this section and the institution has an opening available in the program after all other eligible applicants are admitted.

Sec. 61.575. TRANSFERABILITY. Semester credit hours or the equivalent completed through the Building Better Futures Program may not be transferred to an associate or baccalaureate degree program.

Sec. 61.576. AWARD OF MONEY. The board may award money under the Building Better Futures Program only to eligible institutions to be used by the institutions to facilitate the delivery of educational and occupational skills training opportunities and support services to students participating in the program.

Sec. 61.577. FUNDING. The board may use any available revenue, including legislative appropriations, and may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from a public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules to administer Subchapter J-2, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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