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H.B. No. 2310

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to developing a strategic plan for the improvement and expansion of early learning and educational opportunities for young children with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.0091 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.0091. STRATEGIC PLAN TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. (a) The agency, in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission, shall develop and implement a strategic plan to improve early learning and educational opportunities for young children with disabilities or developmental delays.

(b) In developing the strategic plan, the agency, in coordination with the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission, shall:

(1) develop strategies for the inclusion of children with disabilities in early childhood education settings;

(2) consider topics and existing barriers relating to ensuring, and any changes to existing practices or policies necessary to ensure, more effective inclusion of children with disabilities in early learning programs, including in:

(A) prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E,

including prekindergarten programs provided under a partnership between school districts and community-based child-care providers;

(B) early childhood special education settings;
and

(C) child-care programs participating in the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child-care program; and

(3) coordinate with, at a minimum, representatives of state, regional, and local agencies, the governor's Texas Early Learning Council, nonprofit organizations, and relevant social services providers.

(c) The strategic plan must include:

(1) the strategies for the inclusion of children with disabilities in early childhood education settings developed under Subsection (b)(1) signed by the commissioner, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, and the executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission;

(2) a description of existing barriers to the effective inclusion of children with disabilities in early learning programs;

(3) recommendations for statutory, regulatory, guidance, or funding changes, and policy implementation changes, necessary to improve the inclusion of young children with disabilities in early childhood education programs; and

(4) current and proposed strategies and recommendations to achieve:

(A) improved provider staffing, training, sustainability, and effectiveness across public schools,

1 child-care programs, and early childhood intervention services
2 providers that serve young children with disabilities;

3 (B) the effective leveraging of existing funding
4 and resources;

5 (C) streamlined transitions for families:

6 (i) from early childhood intervention
7 programs to early childhood special education programs; and

8 (ii) from early childhood special education
9 programs to special education programs; and

10 (D) improved collaboration and partnerships
11 between child-care programs, early childhood intervention services
12 providers, and public schools.

13 (d) Not later than September 1 of the last state fiscal year
14 in each four-year period covered by the most recent strategic plan:

15 (1) the agency shall update the strategic plan for the
16 subsequent four-year period;

17 (2) the agency shall submit the updated strategic plan
18 developed under Subdivision (1) to the governor, the lieutenant
19 governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives; and

20 (3) the agency, the Health and Human Services
21 Commission, and the Texas Workforce Commission shall publish the
22 updated strategic plan developed under Subdivision (1) on the
23 agencies' respective Internet websites.

24 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2026:

25 (1) the Texas Education Agency, the Health and Human
26 Services Commission, and the Texas Workforce Commission shall
27 publish the initial strategic plan required by Section 29.0091,

1 Education Code, as added by this Act, on the agencies' respective
2 Internet websites; and

3 (2) the Texas Education Agency shall submit the
4 initial strategic plan described by Subdivision (1) of this section
5 to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the
6 house of representatives.

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