

By: Allen, Simmons, Jones of Harris, et al.

H. B. No. 2849

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to policies on the recess period in public schools.

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

4 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
5 amended by adding Sections 28.0045 and 28.0046 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 28.0045. MODEL RECESS POLICIES. The Department of
7 State Health Services School Health Advisory Committee established
8 under Section [1001.0711](#), Health and Safety Code, shall develop
9 model policies for the recess period during the school day that
10 encourage constructive, age-appropriate outdoor playtime. The
11 model policies must include guidelines for outdoor equipment and
12 facilities on public school campuses that maximize the
13 effectiveness of outdoor physical activity.

14 Sec. 28.0046. RECESS POLICY. (a) The board of trustees of
15 each school district shall:

23 (b) The recess policy must specify:

24 (1) the required number of minutes of weekly

1 unstructured playtime; and

2 (2) whether a student's recess time may be withheld as
3 a form of student discipline.

4 (c) Each school district campus subject to the district
5 recess policy adopted under Subsection (a) shall implement the
6 recess policy.

7 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2026, the
8 Department of State Health Services School Health Advisory
9 Committee shall develop model recess policies as required by
10 Section 28.0045, Education Code, as added by this Act.

11 (b) Not later than May 1, 2026, the board of trustees of each
12 school district shall adopt a recess policy as required by Section
13 28.0046, Education Code, as added by this Act.

14 (c) Not later than the beginning of the 2026-2027 school
15 year, each school district campus subject to a school district
16 recess policy adopted under Section 28.0046, Education Code, as
17 added by this Act, shall implement the adopted policy.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.