

By: Ashby

H.B. No. 3672

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an extracurricular community education grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.251, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 29.251. DEFINITION [~~DEFINITIONS~~]. In this subchapter, "community" ~~÷~~

~~[(4) "Community"]~~ education" means the process by which the citizens in a school district, using the resources and facilities of the district or an eligible organization, organize to support each other and to solve their mutual educational problems and meet their mutual lifelong needs. Community education may include:

(1) ~~[(A)]~~ educational programs, including programs relating to cultural awareness, parenting skills education and parental involvement in school programs, and multilevel adult education and personal growth;

(2) ~~[(B)]~~ community involvement programs, including programs for community economic development, school volunteers, partnerships between schools and businesses, coordination with community agencies, school-age child care, family literacy, and community use of facilities; and

(3) ~~[(C)]~~ programs for youth enrolled in schools,

1 including ~~[programs for]~~ dropout prevention and recovery programs,
2 drug-free school programs, school-age parenting programs, and
3 academic enhancement programs provided both during and outside of
4 regular school hours.

5 SECTION 2. Subchapter H, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 29.258 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.258. EXTRACURRICULAR COMMUNITY EDUCATION GRANT
8 PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "extracurricular community
9 education program" means a community education program for youth
10 enrolled in schools that is provided outside of regular school
11 hours, including programs provided after school or during the
12 summer.

13 (b) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to
14 assist eligible organizations with providing extracurricular
15 community education programs that promote learning and academic
16 enrichment and may include activities involving art, music,
17 community engagement, literacy, science, technology, engineering,
18 math, health, mental health, or recreation.

19 (c) The objectives of the grant program established by this
20 section are to:

21 (1) improve student academic performance by
22 increasing access to after-school and summer learning and
23 enrichment opportunities;

24 (2) reduce truancy by fostering student engagement in
25 learning and connections to the school and community;

26 (3) improve student mental health by identifying those
27 in need and providing early intervention to students and their

1 families;

2 (4) increase student access to protective factors that
3 promote healthy behaviors, attitudes, and relationships, including
4 access to connections with caring adults;

5 (5) encourage students to develop the skills and
6 behaviors necessary to become productive adults, including those
7 necessary to succeed in postsecondary education or career
8 opportunities; and

9 (6) establish community partnerships to ensure
10 equitable access to resources for students and their families.

11 (d) To be eligible for a grant under this section, an
12 organization that provides or seeks to provide an extracurricular
13 community education program must submit a grant application to the
14 agency that includes:

15 (1) an assessment of community needs and existing
16 program resources, including a description of the extent to which:

17 (A) students and their families were involved in
18 the determination of community needs; and

19 (B) the program addresses or will address the
20 identified needs;

21 (2) a description of the organization's relationship
22 with a public school that the students participating in the program
23 attend, if applicable;

24 (3) an analysis of the extent to which the program will
25 further the objectives described by Subsection (c);

26 (4) a plan for implementing educational strategies
27 consistent with industry best practices and for providing program

1 staff with access to professional development opportunities; and

2 (5) a description of the data the organization will
3 use to evaluate the impact of the program.

4 (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
5 administer the grant program established by this section, including
6 rules to:

7 (1) establish a methodology for selecting among
8 eligible organizations that have applied under Subsection (d) to
9 receive grants that prioritizes:

10 (A) programs primarily serving historically
11 underserved students;

12 (B) organizations partnered or otherwise
13 collaborating with public schools that program participants
14 attend; and

15 (C) organizations providing a wide array of
16 services and activities to meet community needs and the objectives
17 described by Subsection (c); and

18 (2) monitor and evaluate the performance of grant
19 recipients, including assessing the effectiveness of a program in
20 meeting the objectives described by Subsection (c).

21 (f) To the extent practicable, the commissioner shall award
22 grants under this section:

23 (1) equitably among the geographic areas of the state,
24 including urban, rural, and suburban communities; and

25 (2) without regard to the grade level of students
26 served by a program.

27 (g) The agency shall provide program development assistance

1 to organizations that receive a grant under this section, including
2 professional development opportunities for program leaders and
3 guidance on educational strategies consistent with industry best
4 practices.

5 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
6 of this Act, the commissioner of education shall establish the
7 extracurricular community education grant program under Section
8 29.258, Education Code, as added by this Act, and adopt all rules
9 necessary for the implementation of that section.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.