

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 198

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to additional requirements for individualized education programs developed for children with autism or other pervasive developmental disorders.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.005, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e-2) to read as follows:

(e-2) For a child with autism or another pervasive developmental disorder, the committee must consider for inclusion in the child's individualized education program each strategy identified under commissioner rule as appropriate for autism or another pervasive developmental disorder and that is based on peer-reviewed, research-based educational programming practices. The committee shall determine whether each strategy considered is appropriate and practicable to include in the child's individualized education program. If the committee determines that a strategy is not appropriate or practicable to include in the child's individualized education program, the committee must include a written statement to that effect and the basis for that determination in the documentation for the child's individualized education program.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.0052 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.0052. ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

1 WITH AUTISM OR ANOTHER PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER. (a) Not
2 later than seven days before each meeting of an admission, review,
3 and dismissal committee for a child with autism or another
4 pervasive developmental disorder, a school district shall provide
5 to the parent of the child written information regarding each
6 strategy identified under commissioner rule as appropriate for
7 autism or another pervasive developmental disorder and that is
8 based on peer-reviewed, research-based educational programming
9 practices.

10 (b) At each meeting of an admission, review, and dismissal
11 committee for a child with autism or another pervasive
12 developmental disorder, the committee must consider each strategy
13 described by Subsection (a) and determine whether the strategy is
14 appropriate and practicable to include in the child's
15 individualized education program. If the committee determines that
16 a strategy is not appropriate or practicable to include in the
17 child's program, the committee must include a written statement to
18 that effect and the basis for that determination in the
19 documentation for the child's individualized education program.

20 (c) If the child's parent is unable to speak English, a
21 school district shall:

22 (1) provide the parent with a written or audiotaped
23 copy of the written information required under Subsection (a)
24 translated into Spanish if Spanish is the parent's native language;
25 or

26 (2) if the parent's native language is a language other
27 than Spanish, make a good faith effort to provide the parent with

1 the written information required under Subsection (a) translated
2 into the parent's native language.

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

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