

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 895

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a student's eligibility to participate in the Financial
3 Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 28.0095(c), (e), (f), and (h),
6 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (c) A student is eligible to enroll at no cost in a dual
8 credit course under the program if the student:

9 (1) is enrolled:

10 (A) in high school in a school district, ~~or~~
11 charter school, or private school, including a home school; and

12 (B) in a dual credit course at a participating
13 institution of higher education; and

14 (2) was educationally disadvantaged at any time during
15 the four school years preceding the student's enrollment in the
16 dual credit course described by Subdivision (1)(B).

17 (e) Each school district, ~~or~~ charter school, or private
18 school shall:

19 (1) on a high school student's enrollment in a dual
20 credit course, determine whether the student meets the criteria for
21 the program under Subsection (c)(2); and

22 (2) notify the institution of higher education that
23 offers the dual credit course in which the student is enrolled of
24 the district's or school's determination under Subdivision (1).

1 (f) A school district, ~~[or]~~ charter school, or private
2 school may make the determination under Subsection (e)(1) based on
3 the district's or school's records, the agency's records, or any
4 other method authorized by commissioner or coordinating board rule.
5 If the district or school bases the determination on a method other
6 than the agency's records, the district or school shall report the
7 method used and the data on which the method is based to the agency
8 for purposes of verification.

9 (h) The coordinating board shall distribute money
10 transferred to the coordinating board under Section 48.308, or
11 appropriated to the coordinating board for purposes of paying costs
12 for eligible students enrolled in a private school, to the
13 participating institutions of higher education in proportion to the
14 number of dual credit courses in which eligible students are
15 enrolled at the institution.

16 SECTION 2. Section 48.308(b), Education Code, as added by
17 Chapter 378 (H.B. 8), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular
18 Session, 2023, is amended to read as follows:

19 (b) An institution of higher education participating in the
20 FAST program is entitled to an allotment in an amount equal to the
21 amount of tuition set by coordinating board rule under Section
22 28.0095(d) for each dual credit course in which a student who is
23 enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school and
24 is eligible to participate in the FAST program is enrolled at the
25 institution.

26 SECTION 3. Section 61.059, Education Code, is amended by
27 adding Subsection (u) to read as follows:

1 (u) In its instruction and operations formula applicable to
2 an institution of higher education participating in the Financial
3 Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program under Section 28.0095, the
4 board shall include the amount of tuition set by coordinating board
5 rule under Section 28.0095(d) for each dual credit course in which a
6 student who is enrolled in a private school and is eligible to
7 participate in the FAST program is enrolled at the institution.

8 SECTION 4. Section 28.0095, Education Code, as amended by
9 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

10 SECTION 5. 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.