

By: King

S.B. No. 1207

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to instruction on adoption in the parenting and paternity awareness program in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.002(p) and (p-2), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(p) The State Board of Education, in conjunction with the office of the attorney general, shall develop a parenting and paternity awareness program that a school district shall use in the district's high school health curriculum. A school district may use the program developed under this subsection in the district's middle or junior high school curriculum. At the discretion of the district, a teacher may modify the suggested sequence and pace of the program at any grade level. The program must:

(1) address parenting skills and responsibilities, including child support and other legal rights and responsibilities that come with parenthood;

(2) include information related to adoption, including information about:

(A) the differences between private adoption and foster care;

(B) the process for adopting a child privately or through the state foster care system; and

(C) adoption as an alternative to becoming a

1 parent and the process for placing a child for adoption;

2           (3) address relationship skills, including money  
3 management, communication skills, and marriage preparation; and

4           (4) [~~(3)~~] in district middle, junior high, or high  
5 schools that do not have a family violence prevention program,  
6 address skills relating to the prevention of family violence.

7           (p-2) A school district may develop or adopt research-based  
8 programs and curriculum materials for use in conjunction with the  
9 program developed under Subsection (p). The programs and  
10 curriculum materials may provide instruction in:

11           (1) child development;

12           (2) parenting skills, including child abuse and  
13 neglect prevention; [~~and~~]

14           (3) the information regarding adoption described by  
15 Subsection (p)(2); and

16           (4) assertiveness skills to prevent teenage  
17 pregnancy, abusive relationships, and family violence.

18           SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026  
19 school year.

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