

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 1716

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to measures to support the enrollment of students with a
3 nontraditional secondary education at public institutions of
4 higher education, including eligibility for certain student
5 financial assistance programs.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 51.9241, Education Code, is amended by
8 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (e) to read as
9 follows:

10 (d) If an institution of higher education in its
11 undergraduate admission review process sorts applicants by high
12 school graduating class rank, the institution shall assign a class
13 rank to [place] any applicant who presents evidence that the
14 applicant has successfully completed a nontraditional secondary
15 education that does not include a high school graduating class
16 ranking by:

17 (1) calculating for each class rank of other
18 applicants to the institution the median score on each college
19 entrance examination the institution considers in admissions; and

20 (2) assigning to the applicant the highest class rank
21 for which the applicant's score on a college entrance examination
22 the institution considers in admissions is at least equal to the
23 median score for that class rank calculated under Subdivision (1)

24 ~~[at the average high school graduating class rank of undergraduate~~

1 ~~applicants to the institution who have equivalent standardized~~
2 ~~testing scores as the applicant].~~

3 (e) An institution of higher education to which Subsection
4 (d) applies shall post on the institution's Internet website the
5 median score on each college entrance examination the institution
6 considers in admissions calculated for each class rank under
7 Subsection (d)(1) for the preceding admissions cycle.

8 SECTION 2. Section 56.013, Education Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 56.013. INFORMATION REGARDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
11 FUNDED FROM DESIGNATED TUITION. The Texas Higher Education
12 Coordinating Board shall post on the coordinating board's Internet
13 website and disseminate to each public or accredited private high
14 school in this state information regarding the financial assistance
15 available under this subchapter and shall include information
16 designed to educate high school students and the parents of those
17 students on available opportunities and required preparation with
18 respect to institutions of higher education. The coordinating
19 board shall recommend a method of delivery of the information to
20 parents and students under this section.

21 SECTION 3. Section 56.304(a), Education Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (a) To be eligible initially for a TEXAS grant, a person who
24 graduated from high school before May 1, 2013, must:

25 (1) be a resident of this state as determined by
26 coordinating board rules;

27 (2) meet either of the following academic

1 requirements:

2 (A) be a graduate of a public or accredited
3 private high school, or a graduate who presents evidence of
4 successful completion of a nontraditional secondary education, as
5 defined by Section 51.9241, in this state who graduated not earlier
6 than the 1998-1999 school year and who completed the recommended or
7 advanced high school curriculum established under Section 28.002 or
8 28.025 or its equivalent; or

9 (B) have received an associate degree from a
10 public or private institution of higher education not earlier than
11 May 1, 2001;

12 (3) meet financial need requirements as defined by the
13 coordinating board;

14 (4) be enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at
15 an eligible institution;

16 (5) be enrolled as:

17 (A) an entering undergraduate student for at
18 least three-fourths of a full course load for an entering
19 undergraduate student, as determined by the coordinating board, not
20 later than the 16th month after the date of the person's graduation
21 from high school; or

22 (B) an entering student for at least
23 three-fourths of a full course load for an undergraduate student as
24 determined by the coordinating board, not later than the 12th month
25 after the month the person receives an associate degree from a
26 public or private institution of higher education;

27 (6) have applied for any available financial aid or

1 assistance; and

2 (7) comply with any additional nonacademic
3 requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this
4 subchapter.

5 SECTION 4. Section 56.3041(a), Education Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) To be eligible initially for a TEXAS grant, a person
8 graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2013, and enrolling
9 in an eligible institution must:

10 (1) be a resident of this state as determined by
11 coordinating board rules;

12 (2) meet the academic requirements prescribed by
13 Paragraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) as follows:

14 (A) be a graduate of a public or accredited
15 private high school, or a graduate who presents evidence of
16 successful completion of a nontraditional secondary education, as
17 defined by Section 51.9241, in this state who completed the
18 foundation high school program established under Section 28.025 or
19 its equivalent and have accomplished any two or more of the
20 following:

21 (i) successful completion of the course
22 requirements of the international baccalaureate diploma program or
23 earning of the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of
24 college credit in high school through courses described in Sections
25 28.009(a)(1), (2), and (3);

26 (ii) satisfaction of the Texas Success
27 Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks prescribed by the

1 coordinating board under Section 51.334 on any assessment
2 instrument designated by the coordinating board under that section
3 or qualification for an exemption as described by Section
4 51.338(b), (c), or (d);

5 (iii) graduation in the top one-third of
6 the person's high school graduating class or graduation from high
7 school with a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point
8 scale or the equivalent; or

9 (iv) completion for high school credit of
10 at least one advanced mathematics course following the successful
11 completion of an Algebra II course or at least one advanced career
12 and technical or technology applications course;

13 (B) have received an associate degree from a
14 public or private institution of higher education;

15 (C) be an undergraduate student who has:

16 (i) previously attended another
17 institution of higher education;

18 (ii) received an initial Texas Educational
19 Opportunity Grant under Subchapter P for the 2014 fall semester or a
20 subsequent academic term;

21 (iii) completed at least 24 semester credit
22 hours at any institution or institutions of higher education; and

23 (iv) earned an overall grade point average
24 of at least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on all
25 course work previously attempted; or

26 (D) if sufficient money is available, meet the
27 eligibility criteria described by Section 56.304(a)(2)(A);

1 (3) meet financial need requirements established by
2 the coordinating board;

3 (4) be enrolled in an undergraduate degree or
4 certificate program at an eligible institution;

5 (5) except as provided under rules adopted under
6 Section 56.304(h), be enrolled as:

7 (A) an entering undergraduate student for at
8 least three-fourths of a full course load, as determined by the
9 coordinating board, not later than the 16th month after the
10 calendar month in which the person graduated from high school;

11 (B) an entering undergraduate student who
12 entered military service not later than the first anniversary of
13 the date the person graduated from high school and who enrolled for
14 at least three-fourths of a full course load, as determined by the
15 coordinating board, at the eligible institution not later than 12
16 months after being honorably discharged from military service;

17 (C) a continuing undergraduate student for at
18 least three-fourths of a full course load, as determined by the
19 coordinating board, not later than the 12th month after the
20 calendar month in which the person received an associate degree
21 from a public or private institution of higher education; or

22 (D) an undergraduate student described by
23 Subdivision (2)(C) who has never previously received a TEXAS grant;

24 (6) have applied for any available financial aid or
25 assistance; and

26 (7) comply with any additional nonacademic
27 requirements adopted by the coordinating board under this

1 subchapter.

2 SECTION 5. Sections 56.308(a) and (d), Education Code, are
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (a) The coordinating board shall post on the coordinating
5 board's Internet website and distribute to each eligible
6 institution and to each school district a copy of the rules adopted
7 under this subchapter.

8 (d) In addition to the eligibility requirements of Section
9 56.304, a person who graduated from an accredited private high
10 school or who presents evidence of successful completion of a
11 nontraditional secondary education, as defined by Section 51.9241,
12 is eligible to receive a grant under this subchapter only if the
13 student's official transcript or diploma includes the information
14 required as provided by Subsections (b)(2)(A) and (c).

15 SECTION 6. Section 56.484, Education Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 Sec. 56.484. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP. (a) To
18 be eligible for a scholarship under this subchapter, a student
19 must:

20 (1) have graduated from a public or accredited private
21 high school, or be a graduate who presents evidence of successful
22 completion of a nontraditional secondary education, as defined by
23 Section 51.9241, in this state while ranked in the top 10 percent or
24 as the valedictorian of the student's graduating class, subject to
25 Section 56.487(b);

26 (2) have completed the recommended or advanced high
27 school curriculum established under Section 28.025 or its

1 equivalent;

2 (3) have applied for admission as a first-time
3 freshman student for the 2010-2011 academic year or a subsequent
4 academic year to an institution of higher education that has
5 elected to offer admissions for that academic year to applicants as
6 provided by Section 51.803(a-1);

7 (4) enroll as a first-time freshman student in an
8 institution of higher education not later than the 16th month after
9 the date of the student's high school graduation;

10 (5) have been awarded a TEXAS grant under Subchapter M
11 for the same semester or other academic term for which the
12 scholarship will be awarded;

13 (6) be a Texas resident under Section 54.052; and

14 (7) comply with any other eligibility requirements
15 established by coordinating board rule.

16 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a)(1), the class rank of a
17 student who presents evidence of successful completion of a
18 nontraditional secondary education shall be calculated in the
19 manner provided by Section 51.9241(d)(1).

20 SECTION 7. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
21 51.9241, Education Code, apply beginning with admissions to a
22 public institution of higher education for the 2026 fall semester.
23 Admissions to a public institution of higher education for a term or
24 semester before the 2026 fall semester are governed by the law in
25 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the
26 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

27 SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter

1 56, Education Code, apply beginning with student financial
2 assistance awarded by a public institution of higher education for
3 the 2026 fall semester. Student financial assistance awarded by a
4 public institution of higher education for a term or semester
5 before the 2026 fall semester is governed by the law in effect
6 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former
7 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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