

(b) Sections 29.153(g) and 29.1531, Education Code, as amended by this article, apply beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

SECTION 5.32. (a) Sections 48.0051 and 48.108, Education Code, as amended by this article, and Sections 48.0052, 48.1081, 48.122, and 48.317, Education Code, as added by this article, take effect September 1, 2025.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (a) of this section or as otherwise provided by this article, this article takes effect immediately if this Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this article takes effect September 1, 2025.

#### ARTICLE 6. COLLEGE, CAREER, AND MILITARY READINESS

SECTION 6.01. Section 4.002, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4.002. PUBLIC EDUCATION ACADEMIC GOALS. To serve as a foundation for a well-balanced and appropriate education:

GOAL 1: The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the reading and writing of the English language.

GOAL 2: The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the understanding of mathematics.

GOAL 3: The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the understanding of science.

GOAL 4: The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the understanding of social studies.

GOAL 5: The students who graduate high school in the public education system will have the skills and credentials necessary to immediately enter this state's workforce.

GOAL 6: The students who graduate high school in the public education system and who elect to pursue postsecondary education will be ready for postsecondary coursework without the need for remediation.

SECTION 6.02. Subchapter B, Chapter 7, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 7.0405 and 7.043 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.0405. POSTING OF POSTSECONDARY OUTCOMES. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), the agency shall post on the agency's Internet website the following de-identified data, disaggregated by school district or open-enrollment charter school, high school campus, and annual cohort for the 10 most recent annual cohorts:

(1) for students who graduate from high school:

(A) the number and percentage of students who enroll in, enroll in remedial postsecondary coursework as part of, persist for at least one year in, or complete a postsecondary degree, certificate, or other credentialing program, disaggregated by program and postsecondary educational institution; and

(B) employment status, occupation, industry, wage, and county of employment and residence, as reported under Section 204.0025, Labor Code; and

(2) for students who did not graduate from high school:

(A) the highest grade level completed;

(B) the number of uncompleted credits required for the student to graduate;

(C) employment status, occupation, industry, wage, and county of employment and residence, as reported under Section 204.0025, Labor Code; and

(D) whether the student has earned a high school equivalency certificate.

(b) The agency shall post the data required under Subsection (a) in a manner that complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g) and may, if necessary to comply with that act, create a private portal for school district board of trustees or open-enrollment charter school governing body

members, school administrators, and school counselors at a high school to access data for the member's, administrator's, or counselor's school district or open-enrollment charter school.

(c) The agency shall ensure the data posted under Subsection (a) is made available to:

(1) school district board of trustees and open-enrollment charter school governing body members and superintendents to assist in adopting college, career, and military readiness plans under Section 11.186; and

(2) school counselors at a high school to assist the counselors in performing the duties under Section 33.007.

Sec. 7.043. STATEWIDE GOAL FOR CAREER READINESS. (a) Using the data posted under Section 7.0405(a), the agency shall create a quantifiable statewide goal for public school students to achieve career readiness, including by attaining a workforce-aligned credential while in high school.

(b) The agency shall update the goal created under Subsection (a) at least once every five years.

SECTION 6.03. Section 11.186, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(b) Each plan adopted under Subsection (a) must:

(1) identify annual goals for students in each group evaluated under the closing the gaps domain under Section 39.053(c)(3);

(2) include an annual goal ~~[goals]~~ for aggregate student growth on each college, career, and military readiness indicator ~~[indicators]~~ evaluated under the student achievement domain under Section 39.053(c)(1);

(3) include specific annual goals for student completion of postsecondary credentials, including industry-based credentials, level one or level two certificates as defined by the agency, and associate degrees, while enrolled in high school;

(4) include annual goals for the outcomes of the district's annual graduates at one, three, and five years after graduation from high school, including goals for:

(A) the rate of enrollment at a postsecondary educational institution;

(B) the percentage of graduates who enroll at a postsecondary educational institution and do not require remedial postsecondary coursework;

(C) the rate of persistence at a postsecondary educational institution in each of the first two years of enrollment;

(D) the rate of completion of a postsecondary degree, certificate, or other credentialing program; and

(E) wages earned;

(5) assign at least one district-level administrator or employee of the regional education service center for the district's region to:

(A) coordinate implementation of the plan; and

(B) submit an annual report to the board of trustees, the agency, and the Legislative Budget Board on the district's performance and progress toward the goals set under the plan; and

(6) ~~[(4)]~~ be reviewed and approved by majority vote annually by the board of trustees at a public meeting.

(c) In identifying and including goals in each plan adopted under Subsection (a) as provided by Subsection (b), the board of trustees shall use longitudinal student outcomes data posted under Section 7.0405(a) and any other resources available to the board.

(d) A school district shall post the annual report described by Subsection (b)(5)(B) ~~[(b)(3)(B)]~~ on the district's Internet website and on the Internet website, if any, of each campus in the district not later than two weeks before the date of the public meeting at which the report is reviewed and approved as required by Subsection (b)(6). The district shall update the annual report on each Internet website if any modifications are made to the report by the board of trustees.

(e) The commissioner by rule shall establish a deadline for the submission of the annual reports described by Subsection (b)(5)(B). The agency shall compile and make publicly accessible on the agency's Internet website the annual reports.

(f) The agency may evaluate the goals identified or included in an annual report described by Subsection (b)(5)(B) to determine whether those goals align with state secondary, postsecondary, and workforce goals.

SECTION 6.04. Section 28.0095, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c)(1)(A), a student otherwise described by Subsection (c) is eligible to enroll at no cost in a dual credit course under the program if the student has graduated from high school but is:

(1) enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school at a campus designated as a P-TECH school under Section 29.556 or in a school district participating in a partnership under Section 29.912; and

(2) completing a course of study offered through an articulation agreement or memorandum of understanding with an institution of higher education and the district or school described by Subdivision (1), as applicable, under the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, or the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program under Section 29.912.

SECTION 6.05. Section 29.182(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The state plan must include procedures designed to ensure that:

(1) all secondary and postsecondary students have the opportunity to participate in career and technology education programs;

(2) the state complies with requirements for supplemental federal career and technology education funding;

(3) career and technology education is established as a part of the total education system of this state and constitutes an option for student learning that provides a rigorous course of study consistent with the required curriculum under Section 28.002 and under which a student may receive specific education in a career and technology program that:

(A) incorporates competencies leading to academic and technical skill attainment;

(B) leads to:

(i) an industry-recognized license, credential, or certificate; or

(ii) at the postsecondary level, an associate or baccalaureate degree;

(C) includes opportunities for students to earn college credit for coursework; and

(D) includes, as an integral part of the program, participation by students and teachers in activities of career and technical student organizations supported by the agency and the State Board of Education; ~~and~~

(4) a school district provides, to the greatest extent possible, to a student participating in a career and technology education program opportunities to enroll in dual credit courses designed to lead to a degree, license, or certification as part of the program; and

(5) a course of study offered under a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program established under 10 U.S.C. Section 2031 is considered a career and technology education program.

SECTION 6.06. Sections 29.190(a-1), (b), and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a-1) A student may not receive more than two subsidies ~~[one subsidy]~~ under this section.

(b) A teacher is entitled to a subsidy under this section if the teacher passes a certification examination related to career and technology education ~~[cybersecurity]~~.



(c) On approval by the commissioner, the agency shall pay each school district an amount equal to the cost paid by the district for a certification examination under this section, including any costs paid for associated fingerprinting or criminal history record information review. To obtain reimbursement for a subsidy paid under this section, a district must:

(1) pay the costs described by this subsection [~~fee for the examination~~]; and

(2) submit to the commissioner a written application on a form prescribed by the commissioner stating the amount of the costs [~~fee~~] paid under Subdivision (1) [~~for the certification examination~~].

SECTION 6.07. Subchapter 2, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.9016 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.9016. MILITARY PATHWAY GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The agency shall establish a grant program to provide money to school districts to implement a program under which the district:

(1) establishes a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program under 10 U.S.C. Section 2031 for students enrolled in high school in the district;

(2) annually administers the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test to each student participating in the program described by Subdivision (1); and

(3) provides college and career counseling at least once per year to each student administered the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test under Subdivision (2) based on the results of the test.

(b) The amount of each grant awarded under the grant program is \$50,000.

(c) The total amount of grants awarded under the grant program for a school year may not exceed \$2 million.

SECTION 6.08. Section 29.912, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-1) and amending Subsection (j) to read as follows:

(c-1) A school district that has participated in the program may continue to participate in the program regardless of the number of students in average daily attendance in the district for the current school year.

(j) The commissioner shall make grants available for use by a coordinating entity for a two-year period to assist with costs associated with the planning, development, establishment, or expansion, as applicable, of partnerships under the program using [~~a portion of state funds allocated under Section 48.118 as well as~~] money appropriated for that purpose, federal funds, and any other funds available. The commissioner may award a grant only to a coordinating entity that has entered into a performance agreement approved under Subsection (i) or, if in the planning stage, has entered into a memorandum of understanding to enter into a performance agreement, unless the source of funds does not permit a grant to the coordinating entity, in which case the grant shall be made to a participating school district acting as fiscal agent. Eligible use of grant funds shall include planning, development, establishment, or expansion of partnerships under the program. The commissioner may use not more than 15 percent of the money allocated for the grants to cover the cost of administering grants awarded under the program and to provide technical assistance and support to partnerships under the program. The total amount of grants awarded under this subsection for a school year may not exceed \$5 million.

SECTION 6.09. Section 33.007, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b) During the first school year a student is enrolled in a high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment charter school, and again during each year of a student's enrollment in high school or at the high school level, a school counselor shall provide information about postsecondary education to the student and the student's parent or guardian. The information must include information regarding:

(1) the importance of postsecondary education, including career readiness and workforce training opportunities;

(2) the advantages of earning an endorsement and a performance acknowledgment and completing the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program under Section 28.025;

(3) the disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of taking courses leading to a high school diploma;

(4) financial aid eligibility;

(5) instruction on how to apply for federal financial aid;

(6) the center for financial aid information established under Section 61.0776;

(7) the automatic admission of certain students to general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section 51.803;

(8) the eligibility and academic performance requirements for the TEXAS Grant as provided by Subchapter M, Chapter 56;

(9) the availability of programs in the district under which a student may earn college credit, including advanced placement programs, dual credit programs, joint high school and college credit programs, and international baccalaureate programs;

(10) the availability of education and training vouchers and tuition and fee waivers to attend an institution of higher education as provided by Section 54.366 for a student who is or was previously in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services; ~~and~~

(11) the availability of college credit awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans and military servicemembers for military experience, education, and training obtained during military service as described by the informational materials developed under Section 302.0031(h), Labor Code;

(12) opportunities to complete career training and obtain a postsecondary credential while enrolled in high school, whether at the student's campus, another campus in the school district or open-enrollment charter school, or an educational institution that partners with the district or school, including information regarding program costs, program completion rates, and the average wages of students who complete the program; and

(13) the outcomes of graduates from the campus and school district or open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled, including completion rates and average wages based on postsecondary pathways available to those graduates at the campus, district, or school using data posted under Section 7.0405(a).

(d) The agency shall make available to school counselors an annual online training regarding statewide trends identified in the data posted under Section 7.0405(a). The training must include information to assist school counselors in identifying the postsecondary outcomes for students at the counselor's campus and school district or open-enrollment charter school for purposes of performing the counselor's duties under this section.

SECTION 6.10. The heading to Section 39.0261, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0261. COLLEGE PREPARATION AND CAREER READINESS ASSESSMENTS.

SECTION 6.11. Section 39.0261(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the assessment instruments otherwise authorized or required by this subchapter:

(1) each school year and at state cost, a school district may administer to students in the spring of the eighth grade an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced preliminary college preparation assessment instrument for the purpose of diagnosing the academic strengths and deficiencies of students before entrance into high school;

(2) each school year and at state cost, a school

district may administer to students in the 10th grade an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced preliminary college preparation assessment instrument for the purpose of measuring a student's progress toward readiness for college and the workplace; and

(3) high school students in the spring of the 11th grade or during the 12th grade may select and take once, at state cost:

(A) one of the valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced assessment instruments used by colleges and universities as part of their undergraduate admissions processes; ~~or~~

(B) the assessment instrument designated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 51.334; or

(C) a nationally recognized career readiness assessment instrument that measures foundational workforce skills approved by commissioner rule.

SECTION 6.12. Section 39.053, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (c), and (f) and adding Subsections (c-4), (f-1), (f-2), (f-3), and (f-4) to read as follows:

(a) The commissioner shall adopt a set of indicators of the quality of learning and achievement, including the indicators under Subsection (c). The commissioner periodically shall review the indicators for the consideration of appropriate revisions and may, if the commissioner determines an indicator otherwise required under this subchapter is not valid or reliable, exclude the indicator from the set of indicators adopted under this section.

(c) School districts and campuses must be evaluated based on three domains of indicators of achievement adopted under this section that include:

(1) in the student achievement domain, indicators of student achievement that must include:

(A) for evaluating the performance of districts and campuses generally:

(i) an indicator that accounts for the results of assessment instruments required under Sections 39.023(a), (c), and (l), as applicable for the district and campus, including the results of assessment instruments required for graduation retaken by a student, aggregated across grade levels by subject area, including:

(a) for the performance standard determined by the commissioner under Section 39.0241(a), the percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the assessment instruments, aggregated across grade levels by subject area; and

(b) for the college readiness performance standard as determined under Section 39.0241, the percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the assessment instruments, aggregated across grade levels by subject area; and

(ii) an indicator that accounts for the results of assessment instruments required under Section 39.023(b), as applicable for the district and campus, including the percentage of students who performed satisfactorily on the assessment instruments, as determined by the performance standard adopted by the agency, aggregated across grade levels by subject area; and

(B) for evaluating the performance of high school campuses and districts that include high school campuses, indicators that account for:

(i) students who satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 51.334 on an assessment instrument in reading or mathematics designated by the coordinating board under that section;

(ii) students who satisfy relevant performance standards on advanced placement tests or similar assessments;

(iii) students who earn dual course credits