

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

in the dual credit courses;

(iv) students who demonstrate military readiness:

(a) through verified enlistment [~~enlist~~] in the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard; or

(b) by achieving a passing score set by the commissioner on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test and successfully completing a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program established under 10 U.S.C. Section 2031;

(v) students who earn industry certifications;

(vi) students admitted into postsecondary industry certification programs that require as a prerequisite for entrance successful performance at the secondary level;

(vii) students whose successful completion of a course or courses under Section 28.014 indicates the student's preparation to enroll and succeed, without remediation, in an entry-level general education course for a baccalaureate degree or associate degree;

(viii) students who successfully met standards on a composite of indicators that through research indicates the student's preparation to enroll and succeed, without remediation, in an entry-level general education course for a baccalaureate degree or associate degree;

(ix) high school graduation rates, computed in accordance with standards and definitions adopted in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.) subject to the exclusions provided by Subsections (g), (g-1), (g-2), (g-3), and (g-4);

(x) students who successfully completed an OnRamps dual enrollment course;

(xi) students who successfully completed a practicum or internship approved by the State Board of Education;

(xii) students who are awarded an associate degree; and

(xiii) students who successfully completed a program of study in career and technical education;

(2) in the school progress domain, indicators for effectiveness in promoting student learning, which must include:

(A) for assessment instruments, including assessment instruments under Subdivisions (1)(A)(i) and (ii), the percentage of students who met the standard for improvement, as determined by the commissioner; and

(B) for evaluating relative performance, the performance of districts and campuses compared to similar districts or campuses; and

(3) in the closing the gaps domain, the use of disaggregated data to demonstrate the differentials among students from different racial and ethnic groups and [~~7~~] socioeconomic backgrounds [~~and other factors, including:~~

~~[(A) students formerly receiving special education services,~~

~~[(B) students continuously enrolled; and~~

~~[(C) students who are mobile].~~

(c-4) The agency shall study the college, career, and military readiness indicators adopted under Subsection (c) to determine the correlation of each indicator with postsecondary success, including the correlation of industry certifications with wages and available jobs. The value assigned to each indicator must be:

(1) based on the strength of the indicator's correlation with successful outcomes; and

(2) updated in accordance with Subsection (f-1).

(f) Annually, the commissioner shall define and may modify the state standards [~~standard for the current school year~~] for each [~~achievement~~] indicator adopted under this subchapter in [~~section. In~~] consultation with educators, parents, and business and industry representatives, as necessary. The [~~the~~]

commissioner shall increase the rigor by which the commissioner determines the overall performance ratings under Section 39.054(a) [establish and modify standards] to continuously improve student performance to, not later than the 15th year after the date the commissioner modifies the performance standards under Subsection (f-1), achieve the goals of:

(1) eliminating achievement gaps based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status; and

(2) ensuring [to ensure] this state ranks nationally [is a national leader] in the top five states in preparing students for postsecondary success and on the National Assessment of Educational Progress or its successor assessment.

(f-1) Beginning with the indicators adopted for the 2027-2028 school year and as required to meet the goals under Subsection (f), the commissioner shall increase the scores needed to achieve performance standards on indicators adopted under this subchapter only every fifth school year unless an indicator adopted under Subsection (c) requires adjustment before that school year to ensure consistency of performance standards.

(f-2) To the extent practicable, for each of the two school years preceding a school year the commissioner increases a score under Subsection (f-1), the commissioner shall report, in a manner that can be reviewed by school administrators, the overall performance of school districts and campuses under that increased score.

(f-3) In reporting the performance of school districts and campuses on indicators adopted under this subchapter for a school year in which the score needed to achieve performance standards on one or more of those indicators was increased under Subsection (f-1), the commissioner shall include in the report an informational report on the performance of districts and campuses during the preceding school year under the increased score.

(f-4) Notwithstanding Subsection (f), the commissioner may define state standards for an indicator adopted under this subchapter for multiple school years provided that the commissioner annually affirms that those standards are applicable to the current school year. The commissioner is not required to adopt the affirmation described by this subsection by rule.

SECTION 6.13. Subchapter C, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.0531 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0531. INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION LIST. (a) The agency shall maintain a list of industry certifications that are eligible for purposes of Section 39.053(c)(1)(B)(v). In developing the list, the agency shall consider the inventory of industry-recognized certifications developed under Section 312.003, Labor Code. The certifications must:

(1) be aligned to a program of study that, according to labor market data, prepares students for high-wage, high-skill, in-demand occupations;

(2) allow students to demonstrate mastery of the skills required for occupations within an approved program of study; and

(3) be obtained through an assessment of the knowledge and skills provided by or determined by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies.

(b) The agency shall review the eligibility of industry certifications under Subsection (a), including whether the programs of study for those certifications still meet the requirements under that subsection:

(1) in consultation with the advisory council established under Chapter 312, Labor Code; and

(2) to the extent practicable, concurrently with the modification of performance standards under Section 39.053(f-1).

(c) If, after reviewing an industry certification under Subsection (b), the agency determines the certification is no longer eligible for purposes of Section 39.053(c)(1)(B)(v) and should be removed from the list maintained under Subsection (a), the agency shall, to the extent practicable, post on the agency's



Internet website information regarding the removal of the certification not later than two years before the date the agency intends to remove the certification from the list.

(d) During the three years following an agency's determination under Subsection (c) that an industry certification is no longer eligible for purposes of Section 39.053(c)(1)(B)(v), a school district may receive the benefit of achievement indicators based on that industry certification for purposes of Section 39.053(c) only for a cohort of students who:

(1) were participating in the program of study aligned with that certification during the school year the agency determines the certification is no longer eligible; and

(2) earn the certification within the three-year period.

SECTION 6.14. Section 45.105(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Local school funds from district taxes, tuition fees of students not entitled to a free education, other local sources, and state funds not designated for a specific purpose may be used for the purposes listed for state and county available funds and for purchasing appliances and supplies, paying insurance premiums, paying janitors and other employees, buying school sites, buying, building, repairing, and renting school buildings, including acquiring school buildings and sites by leasing through annual payments with an ultimate option to purchase, providing advising support as described by Section 48.0035(1), and educating students as described by Section 48.0035(2), and, except as provided by Subsection (c-1), for other purposes necessary in the conduct of the public schools determined by the board of trustees. The accounts and vouchers for county districts must be approved by the county superintendent. If the state available school fund in any municipality or district is sufficient to maintain the schools in any year for at least eight months and leave a surplus, the surplus may be spent for the purposes listed in this subsection.

SECTION 6.15. Subchapter A, Chapter 48, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 48.0035 to read as follows:

Sec. 48.0035. USE OF FUNDING FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES. A school district may use funding to which the district is entitled under this chapter to:

(1) provide district graduates, during the first two years after high school graduation, advising support toward the successful completion of a certificate or degree program at a public institution of higher education or a postsecondary vocational training program; and

(2) educate a student who has graduated from high school but is enrolled in the district in a program through which the student may earn dual credit, including the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, and the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program under Section 29.912.

SECTION 6.16. Section 48.106, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a-1) and adding Subsections (a-2) and (a-3) to read as follows:

(a-1) In addition to the amounts under Subsection (a), for each student in average daily attendance enrolled in a campus designated as a P-TECH school under Section 29.556, a district is entitled to \$150 ~~[\$50 for each of the following in which the student is enrolled.~~

~~[(1) a campus designated as a P-TECH school under Section 29.556; or~~

~~[(2) a campus that is a member of the New Tech Network and that focuses on project-based learning and work-based education].~~

(a-2) A district is entitled to funding under Subsection (a-1) for a student who has graduated from high school but is enrolled in the district in a program offered under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, through which the student may earn dual credit. The district is not entitled to any other funding under this chapter for a student described by this subsection.

(a-3) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the total amount that may be used to provide allotments under Subsection (a) for courses described by Subsection (b)(1)(A)(ii) for a school year may not exceed \$20 million. If the total amount of allotments to which school districts are entitled under Subsection (a) for those courses for a school year exceeds the amount permitted under this subsection, the commissioner shall proportionately reduce each district's allotment under Subsection (a).

SECTION 6.17. Sections 48.106(b)(1) and (1-a), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(1) "Approved career and technology education program":

(A) means:

(i) a sequence of career and technology education courses, including technology applications courses, authorized by the State Board of Education; and

(ii) courses offered under a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program established under 10 U.S.C. Section 2031; and

(B) includes only courses that qualify for high school credit.

(1-a) "Approved program of study" means a course sequence that:

(A) provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the students' chosen careers, including the military; and

(B) is approved by the agency for purposes of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. No. 115-224).

SECTION 6.18. Section 48.118, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-3) and amending Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(a-3) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a school district described by Section 29.912(c-1) may receive funding under this section for up to 110 percent of the number of students who qualified under Subsection (a) for the school year immediately preceding the school year in which the district's enrollment first reached 1,600 or more.

(f) The total amount of state funding for allotments and outcomes bonuses under this section may not exceed \$20 million per year. If the total amount of allotments and outcomes bonuses to which school districts are entitled under this section exceeds the amount permitted under this subsection, the agency shall allocate state funding to districts under this section in the following order:

(1) ~~[allotments under Subsection (a) for which school districts participating in partnerships prioritized under Section 29.912(h) are eligible,~~

~~[(2)]~~ allotments under Subsection (a) for which school districts that entered into a memorandum of understanding or letter of commitment regarding a multidistrict pathway partnership, as defined by commissioner rule, before May 1, 2023, are eligible;

(2) ~~[(3)]~~ allotments under Subsection (a) for which school districts that have entered into a performance agreement under Section 29.912 with a coordinating entity that is an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, are eligible;

(3) ~~[(4)]~~ allotments under Subsection (a) for which school districts with the highest percentage of students who are educationally disadvantaged, in descending order, are eligible; and

(4) ~~[(5)]~~ outcomes bonuses under Subsection (c) for which school districts with the highest percentage of students who are educationally disadvantaged, in descending order, are eligible.

SECTION 6.19. Section 48.152(a)(2), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "New instructional facility" includes:

(A) a newly constructed instructional facility;

(B) a repurposed instructional facility; ~~and~~  
 (C) a leased facility operating for the first  
 time as an instructional facility with a minimum lease term of not  
 less than 10 years; and

(D) a renovated portion of an instructional  
 facility to be used for the first time to provide high-cost and  
 undersubscribed career and technology education programs, as  
 determined by the commissioner.

SECTION 6.20. Section 48.152(f), Education Code, is amended  
 to read as follows:

(f) The amount appropriated for allotments under this  
 section may not exceed \$150 ~~[\$100]~~ million in a school year. If the  
 total amount of allotments to which districts are entitled under  
 this section for a school year exceeds the amount appropriated  
 under this subsection, the commissioner:

(1) shall reduce each district's allotment under this  
 section in the manner provided by Section 48.266(f); and

(2) for new instructional facilities described by  
 Subsection (a)(2)(D), may remove a career and technology education  
 program from the list of programs that qualify under that  
 subsection.

SECTION 6.21. The heading to Section 48.155, Education  
 Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 48.155. COLLEGE PREPARATION AND CAREER READINESS  
 ASSESSMENT REIMBURSEMENT.

SECTION 6.22. Section 48.156, Education Code, is amended to  
 read as follows:

Sec. 48.156. CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION REIMBURSEMENT. (a)  
 A school district is entitled to reimbursement for the amount of a  
 subsidy paid by the district for not more than two ~~[a student's]~~  
 certification examinations per student ~~[examination]~~ under Section  
29.190(a), including costs paid for associated fingerprinting or  
criminal history record information review, as provided by Section  
29.190(c).

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the total amount that  
 may be used for reimbursement under that subsection for a school  
 year may not exceed \$15 million, of which not more than \$500,000 may  
 be used to reimburse the costs of fingerprinting or criminal  
 history record information review. If the total amount to which  
 school districts are entitled under Subsection (a) exceeds the  
 amount permitted under this subsection, the commissioner shall  
 proportionately reduce each school district's entitlement under  
 this section.

SECTION 6.23. (a) This section takes effect only if S.B.  
 1786, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, becomes law.

(b) Section 204.0025, Labor Code, is amended to read as  
 follows:

Sec. 204.0025. ADDITIONAL WORKFORCE DATA REPORTING. The  
~~commission shall [It is the intent of the legislature that the~~  
~~commission, subject to the availability of federal funding or other~~  
~~resources for the purpose,]~~ work with employers to enhance the  
 reporting of employment and earnings data by employers to the  
 commission as part of an employer's routine wage filings under this  
 subtitle or commission rule and consistent with federal law and  
 regulations. The enhanced wage filings must include information  
 related to wage, industry, occupational field, full-time and  
part-time status, county of primary employment, remote work status,  
[occupation] and other important employment information necessary  
to conduct the assessment required under Section 302.0205 ~~[that~~  
~~would improve the state's labor market information].~~

SECTION 6.24. (a) This section takes effect only if S.B.  
 1786, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, does not become law.

(b) Section 204.0025, Labor Code, is amended to read as  
 follows:

Sec. 204.0025. ADDITIONAL WORKFORCE DATA REPORTING. The  
~~commission shall [It is the intent of the legislature that the~~  
~~commission, subject to the availability of federal funding or other~~  
~~resources for the purpose,]~~ work with employers to enhance the  
 reporting of employment and earnings data by employers to the



commission as part of an employer's routine wage filings under this subtitle or commission rule and consistent with federal law and regulations. The enhanced wage filings must include information related to wage, industry, occupational field, full-time and part-time status, county of primary employment, remote work status, [occupation] and other important employment information that would improve the state's labor market information.

SECTION 6.25. The heading to Section 312.003, Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 312.003. INVENTORY OF CERTIFICATIONS [~~CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATES~~].

SECTION 6.26. Sections 312.003(a), (b), (c), and (d), Labor Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The advisory council shall develop an inventory of industry-recognized certifications [~~credentials and certificates~~] that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program and that:

(1) are aligned to state and regional workforce needs; [~~and~~]

(2) serve as an entry point to middle- and high-wage jobs; and

(3) meet the requirements of Section 39.0531(a), Education Code.

(b) The inventory must include for each certification [~~credential or certificate~~]:

(1) the associated career cluster;

(2) the awarding entity;

(3) the level of education required and any additional requirements for the certification [~~credential or certificate~~];

(4) any fees for obtaining the certification [~~credential or certificate~~]; and

(5) the average wage or salary for jobs that require or prefer the certification [~~credential or certificate~~].

(c) In developing the inventory, the advisory council may consult with local workforce boards, the Texas Workforce Investment Council, the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(d) The advisory council shall establish a process for developing the inventory, including the criteria for the inclusion of a certification [~~credential or certificate~~] in the inventory.

SECTION 6.27. Section 29.912(h), Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 6.28. The Texas Education Agency shall first update the statewide goal for career readiness created under Section 7.043(a), Education Code, as added by this article, in accordance with Subsection (b) of that section not later than the 2028-2029 school year.

SECTION 6.29. Sections 28.0095(c-1) and 29.9016, Education Code, as added by this article, and Sections 29.190, 29.912, 33.007(b), and 39.0261(a), Education Code, as amended by this article, apply beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION 6.30. To the extent of any conflict between the changes made to the Education Code by this article and the changes made to the Education Code by another Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, the changes made by this article prevail.

SECTION 6.31. The changes in law made by Section 39.053, Education Code, as amended by this article, and Section 39.0531, Education Code, as added by this article, apply to accountability ratings beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

SECTION 6.32. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section and 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.

(b) The amendments by this article to Chapter 48, Education Code, take effect September 1, 2025.