

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 1891

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to community schools.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter N to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Sec. 29.551. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association located in close proximity to the population the organization serves.

Sec. 29.552. COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A community school is a public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school that partners with one or more community-based organizations to coordinate academic, social, and health services to reduce barriers to learning and improve the quality of education for students in the community.

(b) A community school offers a variety of programs and services, which may include:

- (1) early childhood education;
- (2) after-school and summer school academic and enrichment programs;
- (3) college and career preparation;
- (4) service learning opportunities, such as internships and community service programs;

1 (5) leadership and mentoring programs;

2 (6) activities to encourage community and parent
3 engagement in students' education;

4 (7) health and social services for students and their
5 families; and

6 (8) parenting classes.

7 Sec. 29.553. TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A public
8 elementary, middle, junior high, or high school may transition to a
9 community school if the school:

10 (1) establishes a school community partnership team to
11 function as the campus-level planning and decision-making
12 committee required under Section 11.251, composed of the members
13 required under Section 11.251 and additional community
14 representatives;

15 (2) conducts a comprehensive on-site needs assessment
16 using the guidelines and procedures described by Section 39.106(b);

17 (3) establishes a partnership with a lead
18 community-based organization that has experience in developing and
19 implementing a community school plan;

20 (4) develops a community school plan that satisfies
21 the requirements for a campus improvement plan under Section
22 11.253; and

23 (5) gains approval for the community school plan from:

24 (A) at least 75 percent of campus faculty and
25 staff and 75 percent of parents of students enrolled at the school;
26 and

27 (B) the board of trustees of the school district

1 in which the school is located.

2 (b) A school that transitions to a community school under
3 Subsection (a) shall designate a school district employee or an
4 employee of a community-based organization with experience in
5 developing and implementing a community school plan as the
6 community school coordinator for the school. The coordinator's
7 duties include:

8 (1) recruiting community partners and building
9 community support for the school;

10 (2) coordinating:

11 (A) the school community partnership team's
12 planning and training activities;

13 (B) planning and evaluation efforts between the
14 school and community partners;

15 (C) academic and student and family support
16 programs; and

17 (D) after-school, summer, and enrichment
18 programs for students;

19 (3) encouraging community and parent engagement in the
20 school;

21 (4) seeking available resources for implementing
22 community school programs and services;

23 (5) conducting an annual needs assessment of the
24 school in coordination with the school community partnership team;
25 and

26 (6) acting as a liaison between the school, other
27 community schools, the school district, and community partners.

1 (c) In developing or implementing a community school plan,
2 the school may seek assistance from other community schools or from
3 regional education service centers.

4 Sec. 29.554. COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT OVERSIGHT. A school
5 that transitions to a community school shall:

6 (1) hold a community meeting at least twice each year
7 to:

8 (A) inform community stakeholders about the
9 school's progress in implementing the community school plan; and

10 (B) seek community input regarding any
11 improvements or changes that could be made to the plan; and

12 (2) report annually to the board of trustees of the
13 school district in which the school is located regarding the
14 school's progress in implementing the plan.

15 Sec. 29.555. LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS. (a) A school
16 community partnership team formed by a school with performance
17 below any standard under Section 39.054(e) functions as the campus
18 intervention team for purposes of Section 39.106.

19 (b) A low-performing school transitioning to a community
20 school shall receive district-level support to assist the school in
21 developing and implementing the community school plan. The support
22 must continue for at least two school years after the school
23 successfully meets the standards under Section 39.054(e).

24 Sec. 29.556. FUNDING. A community school or a school
25 transitioning to a community school may seek and accept gifts,
26 grants, donations, and funds from federal and state agencies and
27 private sources for purposes related to the school's function as a

1 community school.

2 Sec. 29.557. RECOGNITION AS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A school
3 that transitions to a community school shall be recognized by the
4 state as a community school.

5 (b) The agency shall develop methods for recognizing a
6 school as a community school.

7 Sec. 29.558. RULES. The commissioner may adopt rules as
8 necessary to implement this subchapter.

9 SECTION 2. Sections 39.106(c) and (f), Education Code, are
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (c) On completing the on-site needs assessment under this
12 section, the campus intervention team shall, with the involvement
13 and advice of the school community partnership team, if applicable,
14 recommend actions relating to any area of insufficient performance,
15 including:

16 (1) reallocation of resources;
17 (2) technical assistance;
18 (3) changes in school procedures or operations;
19 (4) staff development for instructional and
20 administrative staff;

21 (5) intervention for individual administrators or
22 teachers;

23 (6) waivers from state statutes or rules;

24 (7) teacher recruitment or retention strategies and
25 incentives provided by the district to attract and retain teachers
26 with the characteristics included in Subsection (b)(1); ~~or~~

27 (8) transition to a community school under Subchapter

1 N, Chapter 29; or

2 (9) other actions the campus intervention team
3 considers appropriate.

4 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter,
5 if the commissioner determines that a campus for which an
6 intervention is ordered under Subsection (a) is not fully
7 implementing the campus intervention team's recommendations or
8 targeted improvement plan or updated plan, the commissioner may:

9 (1) order the reconstitution of the campus as provided
10 by Section 39.107; or

11 (2) approve the campus's transition to a community
12 school under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, on request from the
13 principal of the campus.

14 SECTION 3. Section 39.107, Education Code, is amended by
15 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-2) and (s) to
16 read as follows:

17 (a) Subject to Subsection (a-2), after ~~After~~ a campus has
18 been identified as unacceptable for two consecutive school years,
19 the commissioner shall order the reconstitution of the campus.

20 (a-2) A campus may elect to transition to a community school
21 under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, instead of reconstitution under
22 this section if the campus:

23 (1) notifies the commissioner of the campus's election
24 not later than two weeks after the date on which the commissioner
25 orders reconstitution under Subsection (a); and

26 (2) satisfies the requirements of transitioning to a
27 community school under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, not later than six

1 months after the date on which the commissioner orders
2 reconstitution under Subsection (a).

3 (s) The commissioner may not order the closure of a campus
4 under this section without giving the campus the opportunity to
5 transition to a community school under Subchapter N, Chapter 29,
6 and at least two years to implement the campus's community school
7 plan.

8 SECTION 4. Section 29.259, Education Code, is transferred
9 to Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, and redesignated as
10 Section 29.923, Education Code, to read as follows:

11 Sec. 29.923 [~~29.259~~]. ADULT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND
12 INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION CHARTER SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this
13 section, "adult education" means services and instruction provided
14 below the college level for adults by a nonprofit entity described
15 by Subsection (e).

16 (b) The commissioner shall establish an adult high school
17 diploma and industry certification charter school pilot program as
18 provided by this section as a strategy for meeting industry needs
19 for a sufficiently trained workforce within the state.

20 (c) The agency shall adopt and administer a standardized
21 secondary exit-level assessment instrument appropriate for
22 assessing adult education program participants who successfully
23 complete high school curriculum requirements under a program
24 provided under this section. The commissioner shall determine the
25 level of performance considered to be satisfactory on the secondary
26 exit-level assessment instrument for receipt of a high school
27 diploma by an adult education program participant in a program

1 provided under this section.

2 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and in addition to the
3 number of charters allowed under Subchapter D, Chapter 12, a
4 charter under the pilot program may, on the basis of an application
5 submitted, be granted to a single nonprofit entity described by
6 Subsection (e) to provide an adult education program for not more
7 than 150 individuals described by Subsection (g) to successfully
8 complete:

9 (1) a high school program that can lead to a diploma;
10 and

11 (2) career and technology education courses that can
12 lead to industry certification.

13 (e) A nonprofit entity may be granted a charter under this
14 section only if the entity:

15 (1) has a successful history of providing education
16 services, including industry certifications and job placement
17 services, to adults 18 years of age and older whose educational and
18 training opportunities have been limited by educational
19 disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or
20 similar circumstances; and

21 (2) agrees to commit at least \$1 million to the adult
22 education program offered.

23 (f) A nonprofit entity granted a charter under this section
24 may partner with a public junior college to provide career and
25 technology courses that lead to industry certification.

26 (g) A person who is at least 19 years of age and not more
27 than 50 years of age is eligible to enroll in the adult education

1 program under this section if the person has not earned a high
2 school equivalency certificate and:

3 (1) has failed to complete the curriculum requirements
4 for high school graduation; or

5 (2) has failed to perform satisfactorily on an
6 assessment instrument required for high school graduation.

7 (h) The nonprofit entity must include in its charter
8 application the information required by Subsection (i).

9 (i) A charter granted under this section must:

10 (1) include a description of the adult education
11 program to be offered under this section; and

12 (2) establish specific, objective standards for
13 receiving a high school diploma, including satisfactory
14 performance on the standardized secondary exit-level assessment
15 instrument described by Subsection (c).

16 (j) Funding for an adult education program under this
17 section is provided based on the following:

18 (1) for participants who are 26 years of age and older,
19 an amount per participant from available general revenue funds
20 appropriated for the pilot program equal to the statewide average
21 amount of state funding per student in weighted average daily
22 attendance that would be allocated under the Foundation School
23 Program to an open-enrollment charter school under Section [12.106](#)
24 were the student under 26 years of age; and

25 (2) for participants who are at least 19 years of age
26 and under 26 years of age, an amount per participant through the
27 Foundation School Program equal to the amount of state funding per

1 student in weighted average daily attendance that would be
2 allocated under the Foundation School Program for the student's
3 attendance at an open-enrollment charter school in accordance with
4 Section 12.106.

5 (k) Sections 12.107 and 12.128 apply as though funds under
6 this section were funds under Subchapter D, Chapter 12.

7 (l) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
8 beginning December 1, 2016, the agency shall prepare and deliver to
9 the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
10 representatives, and presiding officer of each standing
11 legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over public
12 education or economic development a report that:

13 (1) evaluates any adult education program operated
14 under a charter granted under this section; and

15 (2) makes recommendations regarding the abolition,
16 continuation, or expansion of the pilot program.

17 (m) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
18 administer the pilot program under this section. In adopting
19 rules, the commissioner may modify charter school requirements only
20 to the extent necessary for the administration of a charter school
21 under this section that provides for adult education.

22 SECTION 5. Section 42.003(a), Education Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (a) A student is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation
25 School Program if, on September 1 of the school year, the student:

26 (1) is 5 years of age or older and under 21 years of age
27 and has not graduated from high school, or is at least 21 years of

1 age and under 26 years of age and has been admitted by a school
2 district to complete the requirements for a high school diploma; or
3 (2) is at least 19 years of age and under 26 years of
4 age and is enrolled in an adult high school diploma and industry
5 certification charter school pilot program under Section 29.923
6 [~~29.259~~].

7 SECTION 6. (a) The heading to Subchapter H, Chapter 29,
8 Education Code, is repealed.

9 (b) Sections 7.021(b)(8), 7.102(c)(17), 29.251, 29.252,
10 29.255, 29.256, and 29.257, Education Code, are repealed.

11 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.