

By: Bell

H.B. No. 181

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to information printed by school districts on high school diplomas.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.025(c-1), (c-5), and (e-1), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c-1) A student may earn an endorsement on the student's ~~[diploma and]~~ transcript by successfully completing curriculum requirements for that endorsement adopted by the State Board of Education by rule. The State Board of Education by rule shall provide students with multiple options for earning each endorsement, including, to the greatest extent possible, coherent sequences of courses. The State Board of Education by rule must permit a student to enroll in courses under more than one endorsement curriculum before the student's junior year. An endorsement under this subsection may be earned in any of the following categories:

(1) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), which includes courses directly related to science, including environmental science, technology, including computer science, engineering, and advanced mathematics;

(2) business and industry, which includes courses directly related to database management, information technology, communications, accounting, finance, marketing, graphic design,

1 architecture, construction, welding, logistics, automotive
2 technology, agricultural science, and heating, ventilation, and
3 air conditioning;

4 (3) public services, which includes courses directly
5 related to health sciences and occupations, education and training,
6 law enforcement, and culinary arts and hospitality;

7 (4) arts and humanities, which includes courses
8 directly related to political science, world languages, cultural
9 studies, English literature, history, and fine arts; and

10 (5) multidisciplinary studies, which allows a student
11 to:

12 (A) select courses from the curriculum of each
13 endorsement area described by Subdivisions (1) through (4); and

14 (B) earn credits in a variety of advanced courses
15 from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the
16 distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school
17 program.

18 (c-5) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the
19 student's ~~[diploma and]~~ transcript by satisfying the requirements
20 for that acknowledgment adopted by the State Board of Education by
21 rule. An acknowledgment under this subsection may be earned:

22 (1) for outstanding performance:

23 (A) in a dual credit course;

24 (B) in bilingualism and biliteracy;

25 (C) on a college advanced placement test or
26 international baccalaureate examination; or

27 (D) on the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the

1 ACT; or

2 (2) for earning a nationally or internationally
3 recognized business or industry certification or license.

4 (e-1) A school district shall clearly indicate a
5 distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school
6 program as described by Subsection (b-15), an endorsement described
7 by Subsection (c-1), and a performance acknowledgment described by
8 Subsection (c-5) on the ~~[diploma and]~~ transcript of a student who
9 satisfies the applicable requirements. The State Board of Education
10 shall adopt rules as necessary to administer this subsection.

11 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with a high school
12 diploma issued at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.