

By: Aycok

H.B. No. 18

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to college and career readiness training for certain public school counselors and postsecondary advisors.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.009. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND CAREER COUNSELING ACADEMIES. (a) In this section, "center" means the Center for Teaching and Learning at The University of Texas at Austin.

(b) The center shall develop and make available postsecondary education and career counseling academies for school counselors and other postsecondary advisors employed by a school district at a middle school, junior high school, or high school.

(c) In developing academies under this section, the center shall solicit input from the agency, school counselors, the Texas Workforce Commission, institutions of higher education, and business, community, and school leaders.

(d) An academy developed under this section must provide counselors and other postsecondary advisors with knowledge and skills to provide counseling to students regarding postsecondary success and productive career planning and must include information relating to:

(1) each endorsement described by Section 28.025(c-1), including:

1 (A) the course requirements for each
2 endorsement; and

3 (B) the postsecondary educational and career
4 opportunities associated with each endorsement;

5 (2) available methods for a student to earn credit for
6 a course not offered at the school in which the student is enrolled,
7 including enrollment in an electronic course provided through the
8 state virtual school network under Chapter 30A;

9 (3) general academic performance requirements for
10 admission to an institution of higher education, including the
11 requirements for automatic admission to a general academic teaching
12 institution under Section 51.803;

13 (4) regional workforce needs, including information
14 about the required education and the average wage or salary for
15 careers that meet those workforce needs; and

16 (5) effective strategies for engaging students and
17 parents in planning for postsecondary education and potential
18 careers, including participation in mentorships and business
19 partnerships.

20 (e) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a school
21 counselor who attends the academy under this section is entitled to
22 receive a stipend in the amount determined by the center. A stipend
23 received under this subsection is not considered in determining
24 whether a district is paying the school counselor the minimum
25 monthly salary under Section 21.402.

26 (f) From available funds appropriated for purposes of this
27 section, the center may provide to school counselors and other

1 educators curricula, instructional materials, and technological
2 tools relating to postsecondary education and career counseling.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.