

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 313

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the essential knowledge and skills of the required
3 public school curriculum and the administration and reports
4 relating to assessment instruments administered to public school
5 students.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 28.0025 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 28.0025. REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL
10 KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. (a) The State Board of Education shall:

11 (1) conduct a review of the essential knowledge and
12 skills of the foundation curriculum subjects under Section
13 28.002(a)(1); and

14 (2) modify the essential knowledge and skills of the
15 foundation curriculum subjects to narrow the content and scope of
16 standards and skills for each subject and grade level in accordance
17 with this section.

18 (b) In complying with this section, the State Board of
19 Education shall consider:

20 (1) for each subject and grade level, the time:

21 (A) a teacher would require to provide
22 comprehensive instruction on a particular standard or skill; and

23 (B) a typical student would require to master a
24 particular standard or skill;

1 (2) whether, in light of the consideration required by
2 Subdivision (1), each essential knowledge and skill of a subject
3 can be comprehensively taught within the number of school days
4 required under Section 25.081, not including the number of days
5 required for testing;

6 (3) the college and career readiness standards, and
7 whether inclusion of part of those standards in the essential
8 knowledge and skills of a subject is possible; and

9 (4) whether an assessment instrument administered
10 under Section 39.023 adequately assesses a particular standard or
11 skill.

12 (c) In establishing or following an established timeline
13 for reviewing and modifying the essential knowledge and skills as
14 required under this section, the State Board of Education shall
15 ensure that the timeline reflects a priority to first review and
16 modify a subject for which an end-of-course assessment instrument
17 under Section 39.023(c) is administered before a subject for which
18 an assessment instrument under Section 39.023(a) is administered.
19 The board shall complete the review and modification of the
20 essential knowledge and skills for each applicable subject and
21 grade level as required under this section not later than September
22 1, 2018.

23 (d) Until the review and modification under this section is
24 complete, the State Board of Education may not add to or modify the
25 content and scope of standards and skills for any subject in the
26 foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1) unless
27 modifications are made in accordance with this section.

1 (e) The State Board of Education may not modify the
2 essential knowledge and skills of the foundation curriculum
3 subjects in a manner that requires:

4 (1) the revision of professional development training
5 for teachers on essential knowledge and skills;

6 (2) the purchase of additional instructional
7 materials; or

8 (3) the revision of assessment instruments adopted or
9 developed under Section 39.023.

10 (f) This section expires September 1, 2018.

11 SECTION 2. Section 28.008(d), Education Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (d) The State Board of Education shall incorporate college
14 readiness standards and expectations approved by the commissioner
15 of education and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
16 under Subsection (b) into the essential knowledge and skills
17 identified by the board under Section 28.002(c). The State Board of
18 Education shall develop and by rule adopt a chart that clearly
19 indicates the alignment of the college readiness standards and
20 expectations with the essential knowledge and skills identified by
21 the board under Section 28.002(c).

22 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 28.0081 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 28.0081. ADMINISTRATION OF ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT FOR
25 DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES. (a) Not later than April 1 of each school
26 year, a school district, using funds appropriated to the agency and
27 distributed by the commissioner to the district for that purpose,

1 shall administer an assessment instrument designated by the Texas
2 Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 51.3062(c) to
3 each student in the district enrolled in the 10th grade. A
4 student's performance on the assessment instrument may only be used
5 for diagnostic purposes, including a determination as to whether a
6 student should be enrolled in developmental education courses. If
7 a student is in a special education program under Subchapter A,
8 Chapter 29, the student's admission, review, and dismissal
9 committee shall determine if it is appropriate for the student to be
10 administered the assessment instrument required under this
11 section.

12 (b) This section applies only until the State Board of
13 Education has completed the review and modification of essential
14 knowledge and skills of the foundation curriculum subjects required
15 by Section 28.0025. This section expires September 1, 2018.

16 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is
17 amended by adding Section 39.0239 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 39.0239. REQUIRED REPORT FOR CERTAIN ASSESSMENTS.

19 (a) Following the administration of an assessment instrument
20 adopted or developed under Section 39.023(a), the agency shall
21 provide a detailed report of a student's performance on the
22 assessment instrument to:

23 (1) the student;

24 (2) the student's parent or other person standing in
25 parental relationship; and

26 (3) the student's teachers.

27 (b) The report provided under Subsection (a) must include an

1 analysis of a student's performance on each assessed standard or
2 skill in the essential knowledge and skills of the subject for which
3 the assessment instrument was administered. The analysis must
4 indicate whether the student mastered each standard or skill
5 assessed in the assessment instrument.

6 (c) The analysis under Subsection (b) must demonstrate both
7 individual assessment results and assessment results aggregated
8 across classes, campuses, and districts.

9 (d) If the commissioner contracts with a third party for the
10 development or adoption of an assessment instrument under Section
11 39.023(a), the contract must require the third party to fulfill the
12 requirements of this section.

13 SECTION 5. Not later than January 1, 2016, the State Board
14 of Education shall adopt a chart as prescribed by Section
15 28.008(d), Education Code, as amended by this Act.

16 SECTION 6. The change in law made by Section 39.0239(d),
17 Education Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a contract
18 entered into, amended, or renewed on or after the effective date of
19 this Act. A contract entered into, amended, or renewed before the
20 effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed
21 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
22 continued in effect for that purpose.

23 SECTION 7. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016
24 school year.

25 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.