

By: Garcia

S.B. No. 193

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to Texas community schools.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER M. TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Sec. 29.501. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association located in close proximity to the population the organization serves.

Sec. 29.502. TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A Texas 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 Texas 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. 29.503. TRANSITION TO TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A
8 public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school may
9 transition to a Texas 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, such as Communities In Schools, a
19 social service provider, or an education or youth services
20 organization, that has experience in developing and implementing a
21 community school plan;

22 (4) develops a community school plan that satisfies
23 the requirements for a campus improvement plan under Section
24 11.253; and

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

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

1 and

2 (B) the board of trustees of the school district
3 in which the school is located.

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

10 (1) recruiting community partners and building
11 community support for the school;

12 (2) coordinating:

13 (A) the school community partnership team's
14 planning and training activities;

15 (B) planning and evaluation efforts between the
16 school and community partners;

17 (C) academic and student and family support
18 programs; and

19 (D) after-school, summer, and enrichment
20 programs for students;

21 (3) encouraging community and parent engagement in the
22 school;

23 (4) seeking available resources for implementing
24 community school programs and services;

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

27 (6) acting as a liaison between the school, other

1 community schools, the school district, and community partners; and

2 (7) developing a plan for sustaining the community
3 school plan.

4 (c) In developing or implementing a community school plan,
5 the school may seek assistance from other community schools,
6 regional education service centers, or technical assistance
7 providers.

8 (d) For purposes of Subsection (c), a technical assistance
9 provider is a public or private entity that has experience in
10 developing and implementing a community school plan and that
11 provides:

12 (1) professional development, training, technical
13 assistance, coaching, or quality assurance activities to assist
14 schools in transitioning to a Texas community school, sustaining
15 the community school plan, or maximizing the effectiveness of that
16 plan; or

17 (2) capacity-building training to regional education
18 service centers to enable the centers to support a school's
19 transition to a Texas community school or assist the school in
20 sustaining the school's community school plan.

21 Sec. 29.504. COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT OVERSIGHT. A school
22 that transitions to a Texas community school shall:

23 (1) hold a community meeting at least twice each year
24 to:

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

27 (B) seek community input regarding any

1 improvements or changes that could be made to the plan; and

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

5 Sec. 29.505. LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS. (a) A school
6 community partnership team formed by a school with performance
7 below any standard under Section 39.054(e) functions as the campus
8 intervention team for purposes of Section 39.106 or 39.107, as
9 applicable.

10 (b) A community school plan functions as a campus turnaround
11 plan for purposes of Section 39.107.

12 (c) A low-performing school transitioning to a Texas
13 community school shall receive district-level support to assist the
14 school in developing and implementing the community school plan.
15 The support must continue for at least two school years after the
16 school successfully meets the standards under Section 39.054(e).

17 Sec. 29.506. FUNDING. A Texas community school or a school
18 transitioning to a Texas community school may seek and accept
19 gifts, grants, donations, and funds from federal and state agencies
20 and private sources for purposes related to the school's function
21 as a Texas community school.

22 Sec. 29.507. RECOGNITION AS TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A
23 school that transitions to a Texas community school shall be
24 recognized by the state as a Texas community school.

25 (b) The agency shall develop methods for recognizing a
26 school as a Texas community school.

27 Sec. 29.508. RULES. The commissioner may adopt rules as

1 necessary to implement this subchapter.

2 SECTION 2. Section 39.106(c), Education Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (c) On completing the on-site needs assessment under this
5 section, the campus intervention team shall, with the involvement
6 and advice of the school community partnership team, if applicable,
7 recommend actions relating to any area of insufficient performance,
8 including:

9 (1) reallocation of resources;

10 (2) technical assistance;

11 (3) changes in school procedures or operations;

12 (4) staff development for instructional and
13 administrative staff;

14 (5) intervention for individual administrators or
15 teachers;

16 (6) waivers from state statutes or rules;

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

20 (8) transition to a Texas community school under
21 Subchapter M, Chapter 29; or

22 (9) other actions the campus intervention team
23 considers appropriate.

24 SECTION 3. Section 39.107, Education Code, is amended by
25 adding Subsection (s) to read as follows:

26 (s) The commissioner may not order the closure of a campus
27 under this section without giving the campus the opportunity to

1 transition to a Texas community school under Subchapter M, Chapter
2 29, and at least two years to implement the campus's community
3 school plan.

4 SECTION 4. Section 12.137(a), Education Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (a) This section applies only to:

7 (1) an open-enrollment charter school designated as a
8 dropout recovery school as described by Section 12.1141(c) if the
9 enrollment of the school consists only of students 17 years of age
10 and older; and

11 (2) an adult education program provided under a high
12 school diploma and industry certification charter school pilot
13 program under Section 29.923 [~~29.259~~].

14 SECTION 5. Section 29.259, Education Code, is transferred
15 to Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, and redesignated as
16 Section 29.923, Education Code, to read as follows:

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

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

26 (c) The agency shall adopt and administer a standardized
27 secondary exit-level assessment instrument appropriate for

1 assessing adult education program participants who successfully
2 complete high school curriculum requirements under a program
3 provided under this section. The commissioner shall determine the
4 level of performance considered to be satisfactory on the secondary
5 exit-level assessment instrument for receipt of a high school
6 diploma by an adult education program participant in a program
7 provided under this section.

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

15 (1) a high school program that can lead to a diploma;

16 and

17 (2) career and technology education courses that can
18 lead to industry certification.

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

21 (1) has a successful history of providing education
22 services, including industry certifications and job placement
23 services, to adults 18 years of age and older whose educational and
24 training opportunities have been limited by educational
25 disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or
26 similar circumstances; and

27 (2) agrees to commit at least \$1 million to the adult

1 education program offered.

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

5 (g) A person who is at least 19 years of age and not more
6 than 50 years of age is eligible to enroll in the adult education
7 program under this section if the person has not earned a high
8 school equivalency certificate and:

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

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

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

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

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

18 (2) establish specific, objective standards for
19 receiving a high school diploma, including satisfactory
20 performance on the standardized secondary exit-level assessment
21 instrument described by Subsection (c).

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

24 (1) for participants who are 26 years of age and older,
25 an amount per participant from available general revenue funds
26 appropriated for the pilot program equal to the statewide average
27 amount of state funding per student in weighted average daily

1 attendance that would be allocated under the Foundation School
2 Program to an open-enrollment charter school under Section 12.106
3 were the student under 26 years of age; and

4 (2) for participants who are at least 19 years of age
5 and under 26 years of age, an amount per participant through the
6 Foundation School Program equal to the amount of state funding per
7 student in weighted average daily attendance that would be
8 allocated under the Foundation School Program for the student's
9 attendance at an open-enrollment charter school in accordance with
10 Section 12.106.

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

13 (l) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
14 beginning December 1, 2016, the agency shall prepare and deliver to
15 the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
16 representatives, and presiding officer of each standing
17 legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over public
18 education or economic development a report that:

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

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

23 (m) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
24 administer the pilot program under this section. In adopting
25 rules, the commissioner may modify charter school requirements only
26 to the extent necessary for the administration of a charter school
27 under this section that provides for adult education.

1 SECTION 6. Section 42.003(a), Education Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

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

5 (1) is 5 years of age or older and under 21 years of age
6 and has not graduated from high school, or is at least 21 years of
7 age and under 26 years of age and has been admitted by a school
8 district to complete the requirements for a high school diploma; or

9 (2) is at least 19 years of age and under 26 years of
10 age and is enrolled in an adult high school diploma and industry
11 certification charter school pilot program under Section 29.923
12 [~~29.259~~].

13 SECTION 7. Section 2308.304(d), Government Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (d) Program resources included in the operational component
16 are:

17 (1) job training programs funded under the Workforce
18 Investment Act of 1998 [~~Job Training Partnership Act~~] (29 U.S.C.
19 Section 2801 [~~1501~~] et seq.);

20 (2) postsecondary vocational and technical job
21 training programs that are not part of approved courses or programs
22 that lead to licensing, certification, or an associate degree under
23 Chapters 61, 130, and 135, or Subchapter E, Chapter 88, Education
24 Code;

25 (3) adult education programs under Chapter 315, Labor
26 Code [~~Subchapter H, Chapter 29, Education Code~~];

27 (4) employment services programs;

1 (5) literacy funds available to the state under
2 federal programs [~~the National Literacy Act of 1991 (20 U.S.C.~~
3 ~~Section 1201 et seq.)~~];

4 (6) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
5 employment programs under Part A, Subchapter IV, Social Security
6 Act (42 U.S.C. Section 601 et seq.) [~~the job opportunities and basic~~
7 ~~skills program under Part F, Subchapter IV, Social Security Act (42~~
8 ~~U.S.C. Section 682)~~]; and

9 (7) the supplemental nutrition assistance [~~food~~
10 ~~stamp~~] employment and training program authorized under 7 U.S.C.
11 Section 2015(d).

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

14 (b) Sections 7.021(b)(8), 7.102(c)(17), 29.251, 29.252,
15 29.255, 29.256, and 29.257, Education Code, are repealed.

16 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.