

1-1 By: Perry S.B. No. 1527
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2021; March 24, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 23, 2021,
 1-4 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0;
 1-5 April 23, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Taylor	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Hall			X	
1-11 Hughes	X			
1-12 Menéndez	X			
1-13 Paxton	X			
1-14 Perry	X			
1-15 Powell	X			
1-16 Schwertner	X			
1-17 West	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to measures to assist small and rural school districts in
 1-22 implementing a collegiate model and expanding broadband access,
 1-23 including the establishment of the Rural Schools and Communities
 1-24 Technical Assistance Center and a grant program.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Chapter 30, Education Code, is amended by adding
 1-27 Subchapter F to read as follows:

1-28 SUBCHAPTER F. RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
 1-29 CENTER

1-30 Sec. 30.401. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "center"
 1-31 means the Rural Schools and Communities Technical Assistance
 1-32 Center.

1-33 Sec. 30.402. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE. The Rural Schools and
 1-34 Communities Technical Assistance Center is established to assist
 1-35 small and rural school districts with the implementation and
 1-36 expansion of the Collegiate Edu-Nation P-20 System Model for 21st
 1-37 Century School Transformation in cooperation with the agency and to
 1-38 further ensure better economic and life opportunities by
 1-39 facilitating the expansion of broadband development in rural
 1-40 communities.

1-41 Sec. 30.403. DUTIES OF CENTER. (a) The center shall
 1-42 facilitate the tri-agency alignment for rural students by
 1-43 collaborating with the agency, the Texas Higher Education
 1-44 Coordinating Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission.

1-45 (b) The center shall assist participating school districts
 1-46 in implementing the Collegiate Edu-Nation P-20 System Model for
 1-47 21st Century School Transformation to:

1-48 (1) combat generational poverty by fostering high
 1-49 aspirations and expectations among students, families, and
 1-50 communities for college and career success, with an emphasis on
 1-51 workforce shortage areas;

1-52 (2) support attainment of the state's master plan for
 1-53 higher education developed under Section 61.051; and

1-54 (3) support implementation of the Pathways in
 1-55 Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs in
 1-56 participating school districts under Subchapter N, Chapter 29.

1-57 Sec. 30.404. SELECTION OF CENTER. The commissioner shall
 1-58 select a nonprofit organization to serve as the center and support
 1-59 school districts awarded a planning or implementation grant under
 1-60 this subchapter. The selected nonprofit organization must have:

1-61 (1) an individual on staff who has previously

2-1 implemented a collegiate model in a rural school district; and
 2-2 (2) a demonstrated history of:
 2-3 (A) successfully managing rural schools; and
 2-4 (B) supporting multiple rural school districts
 2-5 in implementing a collegiate model.

2-6 Sec. 30.405. PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS. (a) The
 2-7 commissioner shall annually award planning grants to rural or small
 2-8 school districts, as determined by commissioner rule, to plan for
 2-9 the implementation of a collegiate model.

2-10 (b) The agency shall evaluate each district that receives a
 2-11 planning grant under Subsection (a). If the agency determines that
 2-12 the district successfully completed planning activities, the
 2-13 commissioner shall award the district a one-year grant to implement
 2-14 a collegiate model.

2-15 (c) The agency shall evaluate each district that receives an
 2-16 implementation grant under Subsection (b). If the agency
 2-17 determines that the district successfully completed implementation
 2-18 activities in the first year of implementation, the commissioner
 2-19 shall award the district an additional one-year implementation
 2-20 grant.

2-21 Sec. 30.406. EXPECTED OUTCOMES. (a) By the conclusion of
 2-22 the second year of implementation of a collegiate model using a
 2-23 grant awarded under Section 30.405(c), the school district must:

- 2-24 (1) have implemented:
 2-25 (A) a dual credit program or a joint high school
 2-26 and college credit program;
 2-27 (B) a Pathways in Technology Early College High
 2-28 School (P-TECH) program under Subchapter N, Chapter 29;
 2-29 (C) a research-based college readiness program
 2-30 for grades 7 through 12;
 2-31 (D) student college and career coaching;
 2-32 (E) a common instructional framework and monthly
 2-33 instructional review and improvement cycles;
 2-34 (F) project-based learning experiences in a
 2-35 majority of courses offered by the district;
 2-36 (G) career and technical education programs;
 2-37 (H) work-based learning opportunities, including
 2-38 paid student apprenticeships in science, technology, engineering,
 2-39 or mathematics workforce shortage areas;
 2-40 (I) formal industry partnerships specific to
 2-41 local workforce needs as identified by regional offices of the
 2-42 Texas Workforce Commission;
 2-43 (J) research-based, nationally norm-referenced
 2-44 formative assessments; or
 2-45 (K) access to a personal laptop or other
 2-46 electronic device for each student; and

2-47 (2) demonstrate progress toward the goal of 90 percent
 2-48 of graduating students concurrently earning a high school diploma,
 2-49 associate degree, or industry-recognized certification by ensuring
 2-50 that at least 30 percent of high school students enrolled in the
 2-51 district are enrolled in college courses.

2-52 (b) If a school district that received a grant under Section
 2-53 30.405(c) does not achieve the expected outcomes under Subsection
 2-54 (a), the center shall work with the district to develop and
 2-55 implement an intervention plan to support the district in achieving
 2-56 those outcomes.

2-57 Sec. 30.407. SUPPORT OF RURAL BROADBAND INITIATIVES. Each
 2-58 school district that receives a grant under Section 30.405 shall
 2-59 work closely with relevant state agencies to assist in expanding
 2-60 access, adoption, and use of broadband in rural areas to benefit
 2-61 educational opportunities and economic development.

2-62 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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