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;
leadership and mentoring programs;
(6) activities to encourage community and parent engagement in students’ education;
(7) health and social services for students and their families; and
(8) parenting classes.

Sec. 29.503. TRANSITION TO TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school may transition to a Texas community school if the school:

(1) establishes a school community partnership team to function as the campus-level planning and decision-making committee required under Section 11.251, composed of the members required under Section 11.251 and additional community representatives;

(2) conducts a comprehensive on-site needs assessment using the guidelines and procedures described by Section 39.106(b);

(3) establishes a partnership with a lead community-based organization, such as Communities In Schools, a social service provider, or an education or youth services organization, that has experience in developing and implementing a community school plan;

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

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

(A) at least 75 percent of campus faculty and staff and 75 percent of parents of students enrolled at the school;
(B) the board of trustees of the school district in which the school is located.

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

1. recruiting community partners and building community support for the school;
2. coordinating:
   1. the school community partnership team's planning and training activities;
   2. planning and evaluation efforts between the school and community partners;
   3. academic and student and family support programs; and
   4. after-school, summer, and enrichment programs for students;
3. encouraging community and parent engagement in the school;
4. seeking available resources for implementing community school programs and services;
5. conducting an annual needs assessment of the school in coordination with the school community partnership team;
6. acting as a liaison between the school, other
community schools, the school district, and community partners; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) seek community input regarding any
improvements or changes that could be made to the plan; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 29.508. RULES. The commissioner may adopt rules as
necessary to implement this subchapter.

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

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

(1) reallocation of resources;
(2) technical assistance;
(3) changes in school procedures or operations;
(4) staff development for instructional and administrative staff;
(5) intervention for individual administrators or teachers;
(6) waivers from state statutes or rules;
(7) teacher recruitment or retention strategies and incentives provided by the district to attract and retain teachers with the characteristics included in Subsection (b)(1); [or]
(8) transition to a Texas community school under Subchapter M, Chapter 29; or
(9) other actions the campus intervention team considers appropriate.

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

(s) The commissioner may not order the closure of a campus under this section without giving the campus the opportunity to
transition to a Texas community school under Subchapter M, Chapter 29, and at least two years to implement the campus's community school plan.

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

(a) This section applies only to:

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

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

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

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

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

(c) The agency shall adopt and administer a standardized secondary exit-level assessment instrument appropriate for
assessing adult education program participants who successfully complete high school curriculum requirements under a program provided under this section. The commissioner shall determine the level of performance considered to be satisfactory on the secondary exit-level assessment instrument for receipt of a high school diploma by an adult education program participant in a program provided under this section.

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

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

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

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

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

(2) agrees to commit at least $1 million to the adult
education program offered.

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

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

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

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

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

(i) A charter granted under this section must:

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

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

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

(1) for participants who are 26 years of age and older, an amount per participant from available general revenue funds appropriated for the pilot program equal to the statewide average amount of state funding per student in weighted average daily
attendance that would be allocated under the Foundation School Program to an open-enrollment charter school under Section 12.106 were the student under 26 years of age; and

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

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

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

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

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

(m) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to administer the pilot program under this section. In adopting rules, the commissioner may modify charter school requirements only to the extent necessary for the administration of a charter school under this section that provides for adult education.
S.B. No. 193

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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