

CHAPTER 12

H.B. No. 50

AN ACT

relating to paperwork reduction efforts in public schools.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Sections 21.258(b) and (d), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The State Board of Education by rule shall prescribe the form and content of the report. *In adopting the rules, the board may not impose requirements that contribute unnecessarily to the length or complexity of the report, and to the extent possible shall provide for each report topic required by this subsection or by board rule to be necessary to qualify for the matching funds and to reimburse the appropriate account with the matching funds.*

*presented in a manner that allows the presentation to be limited to not more than one page in length per topic. At a minimum, the report must include the following information by campus:*

- (1) evaluations of the quality of education based on the information contained in the report;
- (2) scores on tests with national norms;
- (3) reports of performance trends improvement or lack of improvement;
- (4) statements of costs for instruction, instructional administration, and central administration;
- (5) attendance data and dropout rates;
- (6) reports on discipline;
- (7) data on employees, trends in employment, and turnover; ~~[and]~~
- (8) teacher ratios by grade groupings and by program; and
- (9) statement of efforts to reduce the amount of paperwork required of teachers and administrators.

(d) The State Board of Education by rule shall ~~[may]~~ authorize the combination of this report with other reports and financial statements and shall restrict the number and length of reports that school districts and school district employees are required to prepare ~~[required by law or rule]~~.

SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.925 to read as follows:

*Sec. 21.925. RESTRICTING WRITTEN REPORTS. (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that provide for simplifying and reducing the number and length of written reports that the Central Education Agency requires from school districts and school district employees.*

*(b) The board shall conduct a comprehensive review of its rules implementing Section 21.101 to reduce the number and length of reports required from school districts and school district employees. The agency shall provide models to school districts of lesson plans, curriculum guides, and other required reports that comply with agency reporting requirements.*

*(c) The board shall conduct a comprehensive review of current cost-accounting requirements to determine the specific level of detail required in electronic accounting reports to simplify the reporting system.*

*(d) As part of its biennial report to the legislature, the board shall include a statement of the total number and length of reports that it requires school districts and school district employees to prepare and of its efforts to reduce overall reporting requirements. The board shall identify for the legislature those reports required by federal law or rule, those reports specifically required by state law, and those reports required by agency rule.*

*(e) The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt policies to limit the number and length of written reports that classroom teachers are required to prepare. Classroom teachers may not be required to prepare written reports other than the following:*

- (1) reports of students' grades on particular assignments or examinations;
- (2) reports of students' grades at the end of each grade reporting period;
- (3) textbook reports;
- (4) unit or weekly lesson plan reports that outline, in a brief and general manner, the information to be presented during each period at the secondary level or in each subject or topic at the elementary level;
- (5) attendance reports;
- (6) any other report or paperwork specifically required by law or State Board of Education rule to be prepared by teachers; or

(7) reports required for accreditation review.

SECTION 3. Section 13.353(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The training and education required by this section must emphasize the methodology for general management, *including the administrator's ability to reduce paper-work*; instructional leadership; and teacher evaluation.

SECTION 4. The rules and policies adopted in accordance with Sections 21.925(a) and (e), Education Code, as added by this Act, shall be implemented not later than January 1, 1987.

SECTION 5. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on August 28, 1986, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting. Passed by the Senate on September 3, 1986, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 0.

Approved Sept. 22, 1986.

Effective Sept. 22, 1986.