

## CHAPTER 605

## H.B. No. 1010

## AN ACT

relating to reducing the number of students who drop out of public school.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11.205, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11.205. DROPOUT REDUCTION PROGRAM. (a) The Central Education Agency shall ~~may~~ develop a program to reduce the rate of students leaving the public school system before completing high school. *The program must include standardized statewide recordkeeping, documentation of school transfers by students, and follow-up procedures for students who drop out of school.* The goal of the program shall be to reduce the statewide *longitudinal* dropout rate to not more than five percent of the total student population.

(b) The agency shall ~~may~~ develop a system for school districts to collect data on student dropouts. The system must attempt to collect data regarding each student dropout, including the age, sex, ethnic origin, socioeconomic status, and highest completed grade level of the student dropout. *For each campus, district, county, and region, the agency shall determine for each grade level from seven through 12 the number of student dropouts each school year and the ethnic origin of those students.*

(c) *The agency shall require each district to designate one or more employees to serve as an at-risk-coordinator. The number of coordinators required shall correspond to the size of the district. Each at-risk-coordinator shall collect and disseminate data regarding dropouts in the district and shall coordinate the program in the district for students who are at high risk of dropping out of school. In determining whether a student is at high risk of dropping out of school, in addition to the student's academic performance a school district shall consider whether the student is adjudged delinquent, abuses drugs or alcohol, is a student of limited English proficiency, receives compensatory or remedial instruction, is sexually, physically, or psychologically abused, is pregnant, is a slow learner, enrolls late in the school year, stops attending school before the end of the school year, is an underachiever, is unmotivated, or exhibits other characteristics that indicate that the student is at high risk of dropping out of school. At-risk-coordinators should have access to existing Central Education Agency training programs relating to students who are considered "at risk" of dropping out of school. Where practical, local school districts may develop their own training programs to meet this need.*

(d) *Not later than January 31 of each odd-numbered year the agency shall submit a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives that includes:*

(1) *the current dropout rate of students in grade levels seven through 12 in the aggregate and by grade level;*

(2) *projected cross-sectional and longitudinal dropout rates for each of those grades for the next five years, assuming no action is taken by the state to reduce the rate; and*

(3) *a systematic plan for reducing the projected cross-sectional and longitudinal rates to not more than five percent.*

(e) *For the purposes of this section, "dropout" means a student:*

- (1) *who does not hold a high school diploma or the equivalent;*
- (2) *who is absent from the public school in which the student is enrolled for a period of 30 or more consecutive days; and*
- (3) *whose attendance within that period at another public school or a private or parochial school cannot be evidenced.*

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 11, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 11.206 and 11.207 to read as follows:

*Sec. 11.206. DROPOUT INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE. (a) The Central Education Agency shall develop a statewide dropout information clearinghouse. The agency may contract with a research institute or agency to operate the clearinghouse.*

*(b) The clearinghouse shall:*

- (1) collect information on dropout programs and services and on prevention and recovery strategies for various categories of students that have a high dropout rate; and*
- (2) disseminate the information to local providers of dropout programs and services and to the interagency coordinating council created under Section 11.207 of this code.*

*Sec. 11.207. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL. (a) An interagency coordinating council for services to students who drop out of school or who are at risk of dropping out of school is created.*

*(b) The council consists of one representative from each of the following agencies appointed by the executive director or commissioner of each respective agency:*

- (1) the Central Education Agency;*
- (2) the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System;*
- (3) the Texas Department of Community Affairs;*
- (4) the Texas Youth Commission;*
- (5) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;*
- (6) the Texas Department of Human Services;*
- (7) the Texas Department of Corrections;*
- (8) the Texas Employment Commission;*
- (9) the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.*

*(c) The representatives appointed to the council shall elect a chairman annually and shall meet at the call of the chairman.*

*(d) The council shall coordinate policies and services to create a resource network for students who drop out of school or who are at risk of dropping out of school.*

SECTION 3. Section 16.152, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

*(d) The Central Education Agency shall evaluate the effectiveness of remedial and support programs provided under Section 21.557 of this code for students at risk of dropping out of school.*

SECTION 4. Section 21.557, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

*(c) Each school district shall provide a remedial and support program for any student:*

- (1) whose achievement test score is below a standard established by the State Board of Education; or*
- (2) who is at risk of dropping out of school [~~—A school district may provide remedial services to any other student it determines would benefit.~~].*

*(e) A remedial and support program for students at risk of dropping out of school must include an evaluative mechanism that documents the effectiveness of the program in reducing the dropout rate and in increasing achievement in the categories of students listed in Subsection (f) of this section.*

(f) For the purposes of this section, "student at risk of dropping out of school" includes each student in grade levels seven through 12 who is under 21 years of age and who:

- (1) was not advanced from one grade level to the next two or more school years;
- (2) has mathematics or reading skills that are two or more years below grade level;
- (3) did not maintain an average equivalent to 70 on a scale of 100 in two or more courses during a semester, or is not maintaining such an average in two or more courses in the current semester, and is not expected to graduate within four years of the date the student begins ninth grade; or
- (4) did not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered under Section 21.551(a) of this code in the seventh, ninth, or twelfth grade.

SECTION 5. Section 21.753(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The accreditation standards must include consideration of:

- (1) goals and objectives of the district;
- (2) compliance with statutory requirements and requirements imposed by rule of the State Board of Education under statutory authority;
- (3) the quality of learning on each of the district's campuses based on indicators such as scores on achievement tests;
- (4) the quality of the district's appraisal of teacher performance and of administrator performance;
- (5) the effectiveness of district principals as instructional leaders;
- (6) the fulfillment of curriculum requirements;
- (7) the effectiveness of the district's programs in special education and for special populations;
- (8) the correlation between student grades and performance on standardized tests;
- (9) the quality of teacher in-service training;
- (10) paperwork reduction efforts;
- (11) training received by board members; [and]
- (12) the effectiveness of the district's efforts to improve attendance; and
- (13) the effectiveness of the district's remedial and support programs under Section 21.557 of this code for students at risk of dropping out of school.

SECTION 6. The first year that the Central Education Agency is required to submit a report under Section 11.205(d), Education Code, as added by this Act, is 1991. However, not later than January 31, 1989, the agency shall submit a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives of the information relating to student dropouts that the agency is required to determine for each campus, school district, county, and region under Section 11.205(b), Education Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 7. It is the intent of the legislature that school districts support their dropout reduction programs through compensatory education or other appropriate funding sources. School districts are required to report expenditures of compensatory education funds or other funds considered appropriate consistent with the standard reporting requirements.

SECTION 8. Each executive director or commissioner of a state agency who is required to appoint a representative to the interagency coordinating council created under Section 11.207, Education Code, as added by this Act, shall appoint a representative to the council not later than September 10, 1987. The council shall hold its first meeting not later than September 30, 1987.

SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

SECTION 10. 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.

Passed by the House on April 22, 1987, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1010 on May 26, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 1987, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.