

## ATTACHMENT

### Statutory Citations Relating to Discussion of Support for Students in Foster Care

#### Texas Education Code, §7.102, State Board of Education Powers and Duties (excerpt):

- (c)(4) The board shall establish curriculum and graduation requirements.

#### Texas Education Code, §25.007, Transition Assistance for Students in Substitute Care (excerpts):

- (a) The legislature finds that:
- (1) students in substitute care are faced with numerous transitions during their formative years; and
  - (2) students in substitute care who move from one school to another are faced with special challenges to learning and future achievement.
- (b) **[2 Versions: As amended by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1354 (S.B. 1404), Sec. 1]** In recognition of the challenges faced by students in substitute care, the agency shall assist the transition of substitute care students from one school to another by:
- (1) ensuring that school records for a student in substitute care are transferred to the student's new school not later than the 14th day after the date the student begins enrollment at the school;
  - (2) developing systems to ease transition of a student in substitute care during the first two weeks of enrollment at a new school;
  - (3) developing procedures for awarding credit, including partial credit if appropriate, for course work, including electives, completed by a student in substitute care while enrolled at another school;
  - (4) promoting practices that facilitate access by a student in substitute care to extracurricular programs, summer programs, credit transfer services, electronic courses provided under Chapter 30A, and after-school tutoring programs at nominal or no cost;
  - (5) establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of the movement of a student in substitute care to a new school;
  - (6) entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Family and Protective Services regarding the exchange of information as appropriate to facilitate the transition of students in substitute care from one school to another;
  - (7) encouraging school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide services for a student in substitute care in transition when applying for admission to postsecondary study and when seeking sources of funding for postsecondary study;
  - (8) requiring school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools to accept a referral for special education services made for a student in substitute care by a school previously attended by the student;
  - (9) providing other assistance as identified by the agency;
  - (10) developing procedures for allowing a student in substitute care who was previously enrolled in a course required for graduation the opportunity, to the extent practicable, to complete the course, at no cost to the student, before the beginning of the next school year;

- (11) ensuring that a student in substitute care who is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade nine, as determined by the district, has the student's course credit accrual and personal graduation plan reviewed; and
  - (12) ensuring that a student in substitute care who is in grade 11 or 12 be provided information regarding tuition and fee exemptions under Section 54.366 for dual-credit or other courses provided by a public institution of higher education for which a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit.
- (b) **[2 Versions: As amended by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 688 (H.B. 2619), Sec. 10]** In recognition of the challenges faced by students in substitute care, the agency shall assist the transition of substitute care students from one school to another by:
- (1) ensuring that school records for a student in substitute care are transferred to the student's new school not later than the 10th working day after the date the student begins enrollment at the school;
  - (2) developing systems to ease transition of a student in substitute care during the first two weeks of enrollment at a new school;
  - (3) developing procedures for awarding credit for course work, including electives, completed by a student in substitute care while enrolled at another school;
  - (4) promoting practices that facilitate access by a student in substitute care to extracurricular programs, summer programs, credit transfer services, electronic courses provided under Chapter 30A, and after-school tutoring programs at nominal or no cost;
  - (5) establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of the movement of a student in substitute care to a new school;
  - (6) entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Family and Protective Services regarding the exchange of information as appropriate to facilitate the transition of students in substitute care from one school to another;
  - (7) encouraging school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide services for a student in substitute care in transition when applying for admission to postsecondary study and when seeking sources of funding for postsecondary study;
  - (8) requiring school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools to accept a referral for special education services made for a student in substitute care by a school previously attended by the student;
  - (9) requiring school districts to provide notice to the child's educational decision-maker and caseworker regarding events that may significantly impact the education of a child, including:
    - (A) requests or referrals for an evaluation under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794), or special education under Section 29.003;
    - (B) admission, review, and dismissal committee meetings;
    - (C) manifestation determination reviews required by Section 37.004(b);
    - (D) any disciplinary actions under Chapter 37 for which parental notice is required;
    - (E) citations issued for Class C misdemeanor offenses on school property or at school-sponsored activities;
    - (F) reports of restraint and seclusion required by Section 37.0021; and

- (G) use of corporal punishment as provided by Section 37.0011; and
- (10) providing other assistance as identified by the agency.

**Texas Education Code, §28.002, Required Curriculum, (excerpts):**

- (a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:
  - (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:
    - (A) English language arts;
    - (B) mathematics;
    - (C) science; and
    - (D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and
  - (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:
    - (A) to the extent possible, languages other than English;
    - (B) health, with emphasis on the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;
    - (C) physical education;
    - (D) fine arts;
    - (E) career and technology education;
    - (F) technology applications;
    - (G) religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature; and
    - (H) personal financial literacy.
- (b) The State Board of Education by rule shall designate subjects constituting a well-balanced curriculum to be offered by a school district that does not offer kindergarten through grade 12.
- (c) The State Board of Education, with the direct participation of educators, parents, business and industry representatives, and employers shall by rule identify the essential knowledge and skills of each subject of the required curriculum that all students should be able to demonstrate and that will be used in evaluating instructional materials under Chapter 31 and addressed on the assessment instruments required under Subchapter B, Chapter 39. As a condition of accreditation, the board shall require each district to provide instruction in the essential knowledge and skills at appropriate grade levels and to make available to each high school student in the district an Algebra II course.

**Texas Education Code, §28.023, Credit by Examination:**

- (a) Using guidelines established by the State Board of Education, a school district shall develop or select for review by the district board of trustees examinations for acceleration for each primary school grade level and for credit for secondary school academic subjects. The guidelines must provide for the examinations to thoroughly test comprehension of the information presented in the applicable grade level or subject. The board of trustees shall approve for each subject, to the extent available, at least four examinations that satisfy State Board of Education guidelines. The examinations approved by the board of trustees must include:
  - (1) advanced placement examinations developed by the College Board; and
  - (2) examinations administered through the College-Level Examination Program.
- (b) A school district shall give a student in a primary grade level credit for a grade level and advance the student one grade level on the basis of an examination for acceleration approved by the board of trustees under Subsection (a) if:
  - (1) the student scores in the 80th percentile or above on each section of the examination;
  - (2) a district representative recommends that the student be advanced; and
  - (3) the student's parent or guardian gives written approval of the advancement.
- (c) A school district shall give a student in grade level six or above credit for a subject on the basis of an examination for credit in the subject approved by the board of trustees under Subsection (a) if the student scores in the 80th percentile or above on the examination or if the student achieves a score as provided by Subsection (c-1). If a student is given credit in a subject on the basis of an examination, the district shall enter the examination score on the student's transcript and the student is not required to take an end-of-course assessment instrument adopted under Section 39.023(c) for that subject.
- (c-1) A school district shall give a student in grade level six or above credit for a subject if the student scores:
  - (1) a three or higher on an advanced placement examination approved by the board of trustees under Subsection (a) and developed by the College Board; or
  - (2) a scaled score of 60 or higher on an examination approved by the board of trustees under Subsection (a) and administered through the College-Level Examination Program.
- (d) Each district shall administer each examination approved by the board of trustees under Subsection (a) not fewer [less] than four times each year, at times to be determined by the State Board of Education.
- (e) Subsection (d) does not apply to an examination that has an administration date that is established by an entity other than the school district.
- (f) A student may not attempt more than two times to receive credit for a particular subject on the basis of an examination for credit in that subject.
- (g) If a student fails to achieve the designated score described by Subsection (c) or (c-1) on an applicable examination described by Subsection (c) or (c-1) for a subject before the beginning of the school year in which the student would ordinarily be required to enroll in a course in that subject in accordance with the school district's prescribed course sequence, the student must satisfactorily complete the course to receive credit for the course.

**Texas Education Code, §28.025, High School Diploma and Certificate; Academic Achievement Record, (excerpts)**

- (a) The State Board of Education by rule shall determine curriculum requirements for the foundation high school program that are consistent with the required curriculum under Section 28.002. The State Board of Education shall designate the specific courses in the foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1) required under the foundation high school program. Except as provided by this section, the State Board of Education may not designate a specific course or a specific number of credits in the enrichment curriculum as requirements for the program.
- (b) A school district shall ensure that each student, on entering ninth grade, indicates in writing an endorsement under Subsection (c-1) that the student intends to earn. A district shall permit a student to choose, at any time, to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated. A student may graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement if, after the student's sophomore year:
  - (1) the student and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student are advised by a school counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school with one or more endorsements; and
  - (2) the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student files with a school counselor written permission, on a form adopted by the agency, allowing the student to graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement.
- (b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students successfully complete:
  - (1) four credits in English language arts under Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);
  - (2) three credits in mathematics under Section 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course authorized under Subsection (b-2);
  - (3) three credits in science under Section 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);
  - (4) three credits in social studies under Section 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in economics, and one credit in world geography or world history;
  - (5) except as provided under Subsections (b-12), (b-13), and (b-14), two credits in the same language in a language other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A);
  - (6) five elective credits;
  - (7) one credit in fine arts under Section 28.002(a)(2)(D); and
  - (8) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).
- (b-2) **[2 Versions: As amended by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., ch. 211]** In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State Board of Education shall provide for a student to comply with the curriculum

requirements for an advanced English course under Subsection (b-1)(1) taken after successful completion of English I, English II, and English III, for an advanced mathematics course under Subsection (b-1)(2) taken after the successful completion of Algebra I and geometry, and for any advanced science course under Subsection (b-1)(3) by successfully completing a course in the appropriate content area that has been approved as an advanced course by board rule or that is offered as an advanced course for credit without board approval as provided by Section 28.002(g-1).

- (b-2) **[2 Versions: As amended by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., ch. 214]** In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State Board of Education shall allow a student to comply with the curriculum requirements for the third and fourth mathematics credits under Subsection (b-1)(1) or the third and fourth science credits under Subsection (b-1)(1) by successfully completing an advanced career and technical course designated by the State Board of Education as containing substantively similar and rigorous academic content.
- (b-3) In adopting rules for purposes of Subsection (b-2), the State Board of Education must approve a variety of advanced English, mathematics, and science courses that may be taken to comply with the foundation high school program requirements, provided that each approved course prepares students to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation.
- (b-4) A school district may offer the curriculum described in Subsections (b-1)(1) through (4) in an applied manner. Courses delivered in an applied manner must cover the essential knowledge and skills, and the student shall be administered the applicable end-of-course assessment instrument as provided by Sections 39.023(c) and 39.025.
- (b-5) A school district may offer a mathematics or science course to be taken by a student after completion of Algebra II and physics. A course approved under this subsection must be endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit.
- (b-7) The State Board of Education, in coordination with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall adopt rules to ensure that a student may comply with the curriculum requirements under the foundation high school program or for an endorsement under Subsection (c-1) by successfully completing appropriate courses in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education under Section 61.822. Notwithstanding Subsection (b-15) or (c) of this section, Section 39.025, or any other provision of this code and notwithstanding any school district policy, a student who has completed the core curriculum of an institution of higher education under Section 61.822, as certified by the institution in accordance with commissioner rule, is considered to have earned a distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program and is entitled to receive a high school diploma from the appropriate high school as that high school is determined in accordance with commissioner rule. A student who is considered to have earned a distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program under this subsection may apply for admission to an institution of higher education for the first semester or other academic term after the semester or other academic term in which the student completes the core curriculum.
- (h) **[Expires September 1, 2018]** The commissioner by rule shall adopt a transition plan to implement and administer the amendments made by H.B. No. 5, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, replacing the minimum, recommended, and advanced high school programs with the foundation high school program beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. Under the transition plan, a student who entered the ninth grade before the 2014-2015 school year must be permitted to complete the curriculum requirements required for high school graduation under:

- (1) the foundation high school program, if the student chooses during the 2014-2015 school year to take courses under this program;
- (2) the minimum high school program, as that program existed before the adoption of H.B. No. 5, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, if the student was participating in that program before the 2014-2015 school year;
- (3) the recommended high school program, as that program existed before the adoption of H.B. No. 5, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, if the student was participating in that program before the 2014-2015 school year; or
- (4) the advanced high school program, as that program existed before the adoption of H.B. No. 5, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, if the student was participating in that program before the 2014-2015 school year.