

**SENATE FINANCE
ARTICLE III WORKGROUP**

**ARTICLE XI
PUBLIC EDUCATION RIDERS**

MARCH 24, 2015

By: _____

**ADOPTED to ARTICLE XI BY
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE WORKGROUP, ARTICLE III
3/19/15**

**Texas Education Agency
Proposed Funding and Rider
Student Success Initiative**

Prepared by LBB Staff, March 20, 2015

Overview

Increase funding for the Student Success Initiative by \$37,750,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium. Modify the rider to require funds be distributed directly to school districts on a formula basis based on the number of students requiring accelerated instruction; require school districts select scientifically validated and research-based programs with a proven track record of improving individual student achievement; require the Commissioner to collect information from districts and charters on programs selected and student data related to effectiveness of the programs; require the Commissioner to collect information related to district and charter interest in cooperative purchasing of programs, determine the best value for eligible programs, and facilitate the purchase of such programs beginning in fiscal year 2017. Modify the rider to direct \$2.0 million to establish a pilot program for Reading Excellence Teams, \$30.0 million to create Reading-to-Learn Academies, and \$2.0 million for a technology grant program to assist with telecommunications infrastructure for students who have not performed satisfactorily on a state assessment.

Required Action

- (1) On page III-2, of the Texas Education Agency's bill pattern, increase General Revenue funding for Strategy A.2.1, Statewide Educational Programs, by \$37,750,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium.

- (1) On page III-17 of the Texas Education Agency bill pattern, modify the following rider:
 46. **Student Success Initiative.** Out of funds appropriated above in Strategy A.2.1, Statewide Educational Programs, the Commissioner shall expend ~~\$15,850,000~~ \$53,600,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2016 and ~~\$15,850,000~~ \$53,600,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2017 for the Student Success Initiative. The Commissioner shall allocate these funds to public schools for the purpose of implementing scientifically validated and research-based programs for students who have not performed satisfactorily on a state assessment. Funds shall be distributed to school districts to fund programs targeting the prevention of academic failure.

To the extent possible, the Commissioner shall minimize duplication and maximize efficiency between the supplemental mathematics and reading instruction provided through the Student Success Initiative and other similar state-funded reading and mathematics programs. The commissioner shall ensure that mathematics and reading instruction programs funded by the Act contain diagnostic tools with which the impact and effectiveness of the programs may be assessed.

The Commissioner shall collect from school districts and open-enrollment charter schools information on 1) the programs selected with use of the funds directed by this rider; and 2) student data on the impact and effectiveness of the programs selected through the Student Success Initiative.

The Commissioner shall collect information from school districts and open-enrollment charter schools regarding interest in purchasing similar scientifically validated and research-based programs funded by this rider through a cooperative arrangement. The Commissioner shall determine the best value for purchases of eligible programs,

including a request for offers method, for which at least 100 districts specify an interest in purchasing using funds appropriated by this rider. Beginning in fiscal year 2017, the Commissioner shall facilitate the purchase of eligible programs on behalf of interested districts and open-enrollment charter schools under the prices established through the cooperative arrangements.

Student Success Initiative programs funded by this rider include the following:

- a. From funds identified above, the Commissioner shall allocate \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium to establish a pilot program for Reading Excellence Teams. These teams shall be composed of well-trained, specialist literacy professionals that provide support on an optional basis to schools with low reading scores.
- b. From funds identified above, the Commissioner shall allocate \$15,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium to create Reading-to-Learn Academies. The academies will deliver Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)-focused teaching strategies to fourth and fifth grade teachers in order to improve student comprehension across all subject areas.
- c. From funds identified above, the Commissioner shall allocate \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium for a technology grant program to assist with telecommunications infrastructure for students who have not performed satisfactorily on a state assessment. The Commissioner shall distribute grants to campuses rated improvement required. Grant recipients may use grant funds to enter into public-private partnerships to improve access to high-quality digital learning options through necessary upgrades to content, devices, and access.

Any unexpended balances as of August 31, 2016 are hereby appropriated to fiscal year 2017 for the same purpose.

By Whitmire

**Texas Education Agency
Houston ISD and North Forest ISD Consolidation**

Overview

The following action adds a new rider that directs \$52 million for the 2016-17 biennium, for the purpose of completing construction of facilities related to an equitable transition in the consolidation of Houston Independent School District and North Forest Independent School District.

Required Action

On page III-_____ of Texas Education Agency bill pattern, reinstate and amend existing Rider 76:

_____. Houston ISD and North Forest ISD Consolidation

Out of funds appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Foundation School Program, the Commissioner shall expend \$52 million for the 2016-17 biennium, for the purpose of completing construction of facilities related to an equitable transition in the consolidation of Houston Independent School District and North Forest Independent School District.

No later than August 31 of each year, Houston Independent School District shall submit a report to the Legislative Budget Board regarding construction status and cost reports related to the funds expended on the facilities.

By: _____

**ADOPTED to ARTICLE XI BY
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE ARTICLE III WORKGROUP
3/19/15**

**Texas Education Agency
Proposed Funding and Rider
Virtual School Network**

Prepared by LBB Staff, March 20, 2015

Overview

Add a rider which appropriates \$12,900,000 in General Revenue Funds in both fiscal years 2016 and 2017 to the Texas Education Agency in Strategy B.2.1, Technology and Instructional Materials, to the state virtual school network.

Required Action

- (1) On page III-2, of the bill pattern for the Texas Education Agency, increase General Revenue for Strategy B.2.1, Technology and Instructional Materials, by \$12,900,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium.
- (2) On page III-17 of the bill pattern for the Texas Education Agency, modify the following rider:
 48. **Virtual School Network.** From funds appropriated above in Strategy B.2.1, Technology and Instructional Materials, ~~\$4,000,000~~ \$16,900,000 in General Revenue in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium shall be used for the operation of a state virtual school network in accordance with Texas Education Code, Chapter 30A.

In addition to the amounts above, all revenues received under the authority of Texas Education Code, Chapter 30A are hereby appropriated to the Texas Education Agency for the 2016-17 biennium for the purpose of administering the state virtual school network.

Any unexpended balances as of August 31, 2016 are hereby appropriated to fiscal year 2017 for the same purpose.

By: _____

**Texas Education Agency
Proposed Funding and Rider
High Demand Skills Development Dual Credit
And Early College Grant Program**

Prepared by LBB Staff, March 20, 2015

Overview

Add a rider which appropriates \$15,000,000 in both fiscal years 2016 and 2017 out of the General Revenue Fund to the Texas Education Agency to develop a High Demand Skills Development Dual Credit and Early College Grant Program.

Required Action

- (1) On page III-2, of the Texas Education Agency's bill pattern, increase General Revenue funding for Strategy A.2.1, Statewide Educational Programs, by \$15,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium.
- (2) On page III-23 of the Texas Education Agency bill pattern, add the following rider:

High Demand Skills Development Dual Credit and Early College Grant Program. Out of funds appropriated above for Strategy A.2.1. Statewide Educational Programs, the Commissioner shall allocate \$15,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium for grants to enhance dual credit and early college offerings in high demand occupational fields. The Commissioner shall collaborate with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in developing grant criteria. The Commissioner shall distribute grants to public community or junior colleges collaborating with a school district or open enrollment charter school, or to public technical colleges or institutions collaborating with a school district or open enrollment charter school. Grants shall be given in conjunction with matching funds from industry or the recipient institutions.

The Commissioner shall determine the purposes of the grants which may include:

- a. Acquisition of industry aligned equipment for students to acquire skills in high demand career fields;
- b. Acquisition, construction or renovation of infrastructure for technology centers; or
- c. Development of industry aligned curriculum.

The commissioner shall set aside an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in the 2016-17 biennium to initiate an Online Early College High School Career and Tech Academy. The Academy shall include rural service areas of the state. The commissioner may collaborate with industry representatives to establish the online academy.

The commissioner shall set aside an amount not to exceed \$500,000 in each year of the biennium to develop strategies to recruit instructors for high demand occupational fields. The commissioner, in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Board, shall work with high demand occupational industries to develop the strategies.

Any unexpended balances as of August 31, 2016 are hereby appropriated for fiscal year 2017 for the same purposes.

By: _____

**Texas Education Agency
Proposed Rider
Funding for Prekindergarten Programs**

Prepared by LBB Staff, March 23, 2015

Overview

Add a rider which appropriates \$59,000,000 in General Revenue Funds (Foundation School Fund No. 193) in both fiscal years 2016 and 2017 to the Texas Education Agency in Strategy A.1.1, Foundation School Program – Equalized Operations, to provide funding for prekindergarten education, contingent on the enactment of legislation by the Eighty-fourth Legislature, Regular Session, related to increasing quality standards for prekindergarten programs in public school districts.

Required Action

- (1) On page III-1, of the bill pattern for the Texas Education Agency, increase General Revenue (Foundation School Fund No. 193) for Strategy A.1.1, Foundation School Program – Equalized Operations, by \$59,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium.

- (2) On page III-22 of the bill pattern for the Texas Education Agency, add the following new rider:

_____ . **Funding for Prekindergarten Programs.** Included in amounts appropriated above in A.1.1, Foundation School Program – Equalized Operations, is \$59,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2016-17 biennium contingent on enactment of legislation by the Eighty-fourth Legislature, Regular Session, related to increasing quality standards for prekindergarten programs in public school districts.