

- SUBJECT:** Authorizing the creation of accelerated campus turnaround plans
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Huberty, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver
- 2 nays — Allen, M. González
- 0 absent
- 1 present not voting — Bernal
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 29 — 29-2 (Menéndez, Rodríguez)
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Priscilla Camacho, Dallas Regional Chamber; Seth Rau, San Antonio ISD; Molly Weiner, Texas Aspires Foundation; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Will Holleman, Texas Association of School Boards; Kyle Ward, Texas PTA; Julie Linn, The Commit Partnership)
- Against — Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Patty Quinzi, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Holly Eaton, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; John Grey, Texas School Alliance)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Christopher Jones, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 39A.101 requires the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency to order a campus that has been identified as unacceptable for two consecutive years to prepare and submit a campus turnaround plan.

Sec. 39A.105 requires a campus turnaround plan to include:

- details on the methods for restructuring, reforming, or reconstituting the campus;
- a detailed description of the academic programs offered at the campus;
- if a charter is to be granted for the campus, the term of the charter and information on its implementation;
- written comments from parents, teachers, and the campus-level committee, if applicable; and
- a detailed description of the budget, staffing, and financial resources required to implement the plan, including any supplemental resources to be provided to the school district or other identified sources.

**DIGEST:**

CSSB 1412 would authorize a public school district to submit an accelerated campus excellence turnaround plan, provide requirements for such a plan, establish criteria for a nonprofit organization to operate a repurposed campus, and grant the commissioner of education final authority on decisions related to campus turnaround plans.

**Plan requirements.** CSSB 1412 would require accelerated turnaround plans to provide:

- the assignment of a principal to the campus who had a demonstrated history of improving student academic growth;
- that the principal had final authority over personnel decisions;
- that at least 80 percent of classroom teachers assigned to the campus performed in the top quartile of teachers in the district that employed the teacher during the previous school year, with performance determined in a manner specified by the bill;
- a detailed description of the employment and compensation structures for the principal and classroom teachers, which would have to include significant incentives for high-performing teachers and principals and a three-year commitment by the district to continue those incentives; and

- assistance by a third-party provider that was approved by the commissioner in the development and implementation of the district's plan.

Policies and procedures for the implementation of the plan would have to include:

- data-driven instructional practices;
- a system of observation of and feedback for classroom teachers;
- positive student culture on the campus;
- family and community engagement, including partnerships with parent and community groups;
- extended learning opportunities for students, which could include service or workforce learning opportunities; and
- providing student services before or after the instructional day that improved student performance.

**Operating a repurposed campus.** If the commissioner ordered the closure of a campus for the purpose of an accountability intervention, that campus could be repurposed to serve students if the commissioner found that the repurposed campus offered a distinctly different academic program and was operated under a contract, approved by the school district board of trustees, with a tax-exempt nonprofit organization. The nonprofit organization would be required to:

- have a governing board that was independent of the district;
- have a successful history of operating school district campuses or open-enrollment charter schools that served 10,000 or more total students with a majority of schools receiving an overall performance rating of B or higher for the preceding school year; and
- have been assigned an overall performance rating of B or higher for the preceding school year.

The contract with the nonprofit organization would have to provide that a

student residing in the attendance zone of the campus immediately before the campus was repurposed would be admitted for enrollment at the repurposed campus.

**Commissioner authority and duties.** The commissioner would be required to approve a campus turnaround plan that met the requirements for an accelerated campus excellence turnaround plan provided that the plan met the general requirements for turnaround plans.

CSSB 1412 would establish that a decision made by the commissioner regarding accountability interventions and sanctions was final and could not be appealed.

The bill would require the commissioner to select one campus that received an unacceptable rating for the 2017-2018 school year, regardless of the number of consecutive years the campus had received an unacceptable rating, to submit an accelerated campus excellence turnaround plan for the 2019-2020 school year. The commissioner could adjust certain statutory timelines relating to accountability interventions and sanctions for the purposes of developing and implementing the plan.

The commissioner would be authorized to adopt rules as necessary to implement the bill.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2020-2021 school year except for the provisions relating to the commissioner's selection of one campus to submit an accelerated plan for the 2019-2020 school year and relating to the repurposing of a campus to operate under a certain contract with a qualifying nonprofit.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

SUPPORTERS  
SAY:

CSSB 1412 would incentivize a school district's most effective educators to lead and teach at historically underperforming campuses with large

achievement gaps that had failed to meet accountability standards. Through strategic staffing, performance-based pay, and community partnerships, CSSB 1412 would provide schools with the tools and flexibility necessary to improve.

Accelerated campus excellence plans have been proven to help school districts identify, retain, and reward educators who enable students with the greatest need to learn and thrive.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

CSSB 1412 would provide the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency considerable power over accelerated campus excellence turnaround plans. Tying teacher pay to student growth could lead to the use of standardized tests in performance evaluations, which would be difficult to apply uniformly. A campus turnaround system built by administrators and educators on the local level would better reflect the needs of failing schools.