

HB 617

Amends Section 29.011 and adds Section 29.0112, Education Code

Summary: This bill relates to transition and employment services for public school students enrolled in special education

Sec. 29.011: This section requires districts or shared services arrangements (SSAs) to designate an employee to serve as the “designee on transition and employment services” and be trained per the minimum training guidelines, which must be established by the commissioner. The designee must provide information and resources about effective transition planning and services and interagency coordination to ensure that local school district staff communicates such information.

Sec. 29.0112: The Agency in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) must develop and maintain a transition and employment guide in an electronic format to be posted on the agency’s website. The new section details what information must be included in the guide. The agency must update the guide at least once every two years. A school district must post the guide on the district’s website (if one is maintained) and must provide written information and assistance to a parent regarding how to access the electronic version of the guide at the first meeting of the student’s admission, review, and dismissal committee (ARDC) in which transition is discussed or at the first committee meeting occurring after the date that the guide becomes available if the student’s ARDC has already discussed transition.

Change from current law: Yes, a district or SSA must “designee on transition and employment services.” Requirement for a transition or employment guide.

Effective Date: June 14, 2013

Action required for 2013-14 School Year: Districts or SSAs must designate an employee to serve as the “designee on transition and employment services” and be trained per the minimum training guidelines, which must be established by the commissioner.

Outstanding Issues: The Agency, in collaboration with the Health and Human Services entity, must develop and maintain a transition and employment guide in an electronic format to be posted on the agency’s website as well as the districts’ websites. The guide must be completed no later than September 1, 2014. A district must provide written information and assistance accessing the electronic version when requested. The commissioner must develop minimum training guidelines for a district’s or SSA’s designee.