

- SUBJECT:** Requiring reporting on the number of school counselors in public schools
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Gooden, K. King, Koop, Meyer, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Dutton
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 29 — 29-2 (Hall, Nichols)
- WITNESSES:** For — Rachel Gandy, Disability Rights Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Mark Wiggins, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Gyl Switzer, Mental Health America of Texas; Sebastien Laroche, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Diane Ewing and Josette Saxton, Texans Care for Children; Dwight Harris and Ted Melina Raab, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Cyndi Doyle and Kathleen Moore, Texas Counseling Association; David Hinojosa, Texas Latino Education Coalition; Kyle Ward, Texas PTA; Matthew Smith, Texas School Counselors Association and Texas Counseling Association; Portia Bosse, Texas State Teachers Association; Bryan Hebert, United Ways of Texas; and 26 individuals)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kara Belew, Marnie Glaser, and Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Under Education Code, sec. 39.306, a school board is required to publish an annual report describing the educational performance of the district and of each campus in the district that includes uniform student performance and descriptive information.

Education Code, sec. 42.006 governs the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), through which each school district and open-enrollment charter school is required to provide certain data, including useful, accurate, and timely information on student demographics and academic performance, personnel, and school district finances.

Concerned parties suggest PEIMS could provide more helpful information if the system collected more detailed information on school counselors.

DIGEST:

SB 490 would require the Commissioner of Education, by rule, to have each school district and open-enrollment charter school report through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) information regarding the availability of school counselors at each campus. A school district or school would be required to report the number of full-time equivalent school counselors providing counseling services at a campus. The Texas Education Agency would maintain the information provided in accordance with this subsection.

The bill also would require the number of school counselors providing counseling services at each school to be included in the annual performance report required of each school district.

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, 2017.