



*IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE GREAT STATE OF DIXIE*

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Dixie Education Reform and Student  
Achievement Act of 2021

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Mr. Steve (for himself) introduces this legislation:

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# AN ACT

To reform education policy within the Great State of Dixie and provide students with better avenues to success

*Be it enacted by the Assembly of the Great State of Dixie.*

**SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) The table of contents for this piece of legislation is as follows:

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[SEC. 207. FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM.](#)

**SEC. 2. SHORT TITLE.**

(a) This piece of legislation may be cited as the “Dixie Education Reform and Student Achievement Act of 2021” or the “DERSA Act of 2021”.

**SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

(a) In this Act, unless otherwise specified, the following terms have the following meanings—

- (i) “Institution of higher education” has the meaning assigned under [section 61.003 of the Education Code](#).
- (ii) “Department” means the Department of Education as established in section 101 of this Act.
- (iii) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education as established under this Act.

- (iv) “Illegal alien children” means children who have crossed the border in violation of state and federal immigration laws, in particular the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 USC Section 1101 et seq.)
- (v) All references to provisions of law shall, unless otherwise specified, be construed to be derived from the Education Code of Dixie.

**SEC. 4. ENACTMENT AND SEVERABILITY.**

- (a) This Act shall come into effect thirty days after its enactment.
- (b) If any provision in this Act is ruled unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable, the rest of the Act shall pass into law.

# TITLE I—EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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## SEC. 101. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(a) [Chapter 7](#) shall be amended by:

- (i) Wherever applicable, striking “Texas Education Agency” and inserting “Department of Education”;
- (ii) Wherever applicable, striking “agency” and inserting “Department”.
- (iii) Wherever applicable, striking “commissioner” and inserting “Secretary”;
- (iv) Striking [section 7.004](#);
- (v) Amending [section 7.053](#) to read:  
“Sec. 7.053. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. The governor may remove the Secretary from his office at his pleasure.”

# TITLE II—REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

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## SUBTITLE A—ADMISSION, ATTENDANCE, AND GRADUATION

### SEC. 201. PROGRAM FOR ILLEGAL ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) [Section 25.002](#) shall be amended by:

- (i) Striking “and” in paragraph (2) of subsection (a);
- (ii) Striking the period in paragraph (3) and inserting “; and”; and
- (iii) Inserting paragraph (4) to read:

“(4) proof of United States citizenship or, in the case of a child who is born in a foreign nation and not naturalized according to law, a valid visa pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 USC Section 1101 et seq.) and other immigration laws for entry, residence, or permission to study in the United States.”

(b) Subchapter D shall be inserted into [Chapter 792 of the Government Code](#) to read:

“SUBCHAPTER D. EDUCATION FOR ILLEGAL ALIEN CHILDREN.

“SEC. 752.071. MANDATORY EDUCATION BY STATE.

“(a) All children detained in the custody of the state for crossing the border in violation of state and federal immigration laws shall be provided an education.

“(b) Each child shall be categorized by age into the equivalency of their grade as though they were enrolled in a public school and learn through the equivalent curriculum developed for their grade by the Department of Education.”

“SEC. 752.072. POWER OF DEPARTMENT.

“(a) The Department is authorized to coordinate with state, federal, and local agencies to develop plans for the sending of illegal alien children to education centers.

“(b) The Department is authorized to obtain land pursuant to [chapter 2206 of the Government Code](#) and construct education centers within five miles of all detention facilities where illegal alien children are present.

“(c) The Department is authorized to hire educators for the purposes of this subchapter.

“(d) The Department is authorized to prescribe rules to enforce this subchapter and this section.

“SEC. 753.073. LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE TRAINING.

“(a) There shall be present in such education centers educators knowledgeable in both English and Spanish for the facilitation of communication and understanding for students.

“(b) The Department shall place first priority onto developing students’ English speech and literacy skills and shall prescribe rules to bring this subsection into effect.

“SEC. 753.074. CREDIT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN DIXIE.

“Notwithstanding any provision of law and notwithstanding the status of illegal alien children who have participated in education programs under this subchapter in regard to residency, detention, or deportation, all children subject to this subchapter shall be eligible for a credit of twenty percent off of the price for higher education in the Great State of Dixie.”

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for Chapter 792 shall be amended by inserting the following:

“SUBCHAPTER D. EDUCATION FOR ILLEGAL ALIEN CHILDREN.

“Sec. 753.071. MANDATORY EDUCATION BY STATE

“Sec. 752.072. POWER OF DEPARTMENT

“Sec. 753.073. LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE TRAINING

“Sec. 753.074. CREDIT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN DIXIE”

**SEC. 202. OPERATION OF SCHOOLS.**

(a) Subsection (a) of [section 25.081](#) shall be amended by:

(i) Striking “75,600” and inserting “100,000”; and

(ii) Inserting after “students” and before the period the following:

“, with each full-day program lasting no more than 480 minutes and each half-day program lasting 240 minutes”.

(b) Subsection (d) shall be amended by:

(i) Striking paragraph (2);

(ii) Striking paragraph (4); and

(iii) Redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(c) Subsection (h) shall be inserted to read:

“(h) Each school day shall begin at exactly 9 o’clock antemeridian.”

**SEC. 203. REQUIRING EXCUSAL OF EMERGENCY DAYS BY SECRETARY.**

(a) Subsection (b) of section 25.081 shall be amended by striking “may approve” and inserting “shall approve”.

(b) Subsection (c) shall be amended to read:

“(c) The Secretary may not disapprove of the reduction of operation time if the emergency circumstances under subsection (b) occur.”

#### **SEC. 204. FIRST AND LAST DAYS OF INSTRUCTION.**

- (a) [Section 25.0811](#) shall be amended by:
  - (i) Inserting in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) after the word “August” “and on or after the second Monday in August”; and
  - (ii) Striking “first Monday” in paragraph (2) and inserting “second Monday”.
- (b) [Subsection \(a\) of section 25.0812](#) shall be amended to read:

“(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a school district may not schedule the last day of school for students for a school year before May 15 or after June 5.”

#### **SEC. 205. ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSED ABSENCES.**

- (a) [Section 25.087](#) shall be amended by:
  - (i) Striking “or” in clause (ii) of subparagraph (F) of paragraph (1) of subsection (b);
  - (ii) Striking “.” in paragraph (2) of subsection (b) and inserting “;” at the end;
  - (iii) Inserting paragraph (3) into subsection (b) to read:

“(3) a temporary absence not to exceed five days for issues related to family affairs with the exception of family affairs in court pursuant to Title 5 and other such related provisions of the Family Code; or”; and
  - (iv) Inserting paragraph (4) into subsection (b) to read:

“(4) a temporary absence not to exceed ten days for issues where the life of the child or the lives of the child’s immediate family is under threat.”
- (b) Subsection (a) of [section 65.003 of the Family Code](#) shall be amended by striking “10” and inserting “15”.
- (c) Subsection (a) of [section 25.095](#) shall be amended by striking “10 or more days” and inserting “15 or more days”.
- (d) Subsection (a) of [section 25.0951](#) shall be amended by striking “10 or more days” and inserting “15 or more days”.

#### **SEC. 206. CLASS SIZES.**

- (a) [Section 25.111](#) shall be amended by striking “20” and inserting “15”.
- (b) Subsection (a) of [section 25.112](#) shall be amended by striking “22” and inserting “20”.

### **SUBTITLE B—CURRICULUM AND EXAMINATION**



**SEC. 207. BASIC CURRICULUM REFORM.**

(a) [Section 28.002](#) shall be amended by:

- (i) Redesignating subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subsection (a) as subparagraph (C), with all subsequent subparagraphs redesignated accordingly, and inserting subparagraph (B) to read:

“(B) literature, including texts from the United States, England, continental Europe, the Middle East, India, East Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Latin America and about the cultural literatures of the same;”
- (ii) Amending clause (i) of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) to read:

“physical health, including the importance of proper nutrition and exercise and the application of first aid;”; and
- (iii) Redesignating subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as subparagraph (D), with all subsequent subparagraphs redesignated accordingly, and inserting subparagraph (C) to read:

“(C) critical thinking and analysis skills;”.