

AN ACT

relating to requiring the Texas Education Agency to conduct a study to develop a writing assessment method for public school students and establish a pilot program to administer the assessment method developed.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.02301 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.02301. WRITING ASSESSMENT STUDY; PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) During the 2015-2016 school year, the agency, in coordination with the entity that has been contracted to develop or implement assessment instruments under Section 39.023, shall conduct a study to develop a writing assessment method as an alternative to the writing assessment instruments required under Sections 39.023(a) and (c). The writing assessment method must be designed to assess:

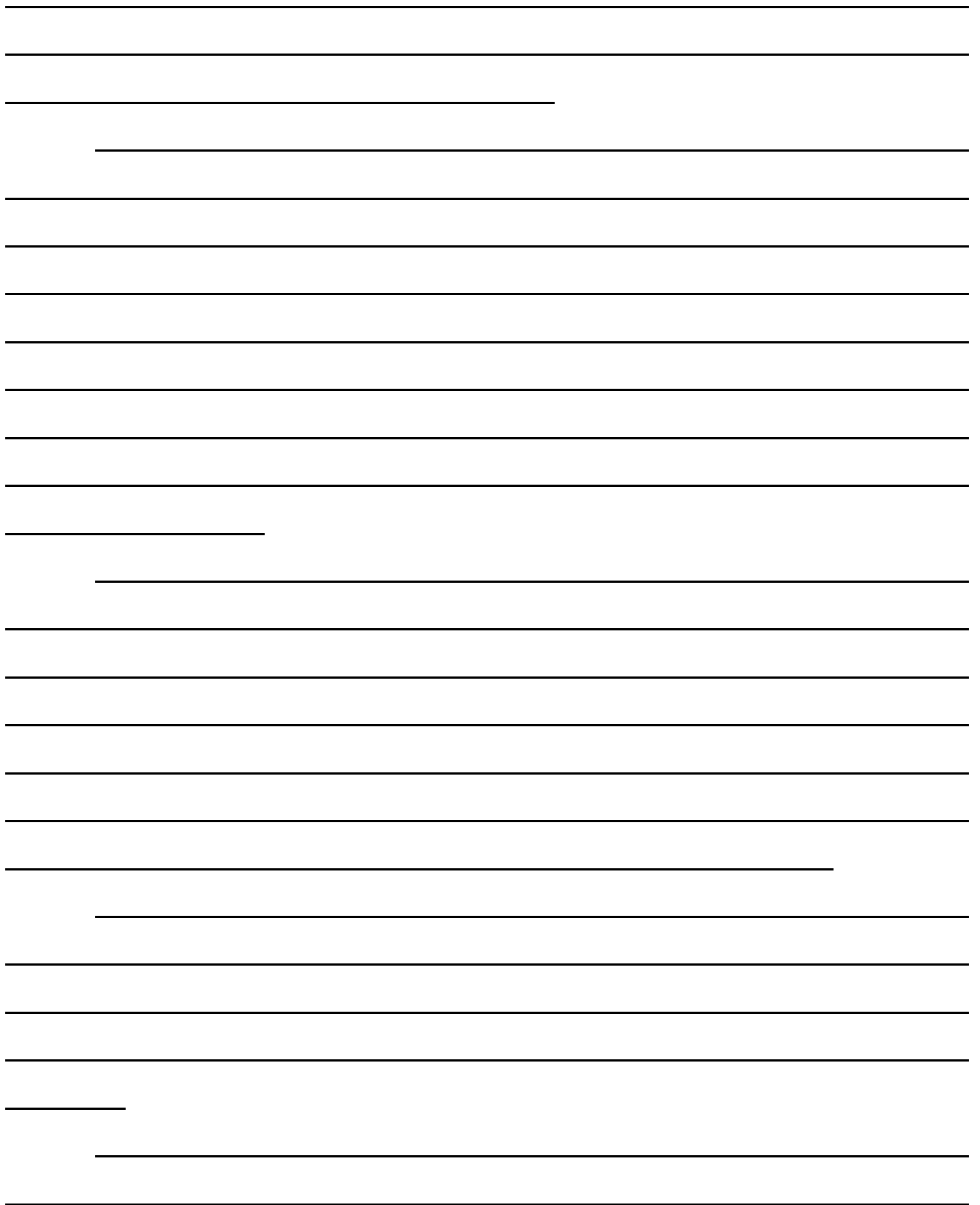
(1) a student's mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in writing through timed writing samples;

(2) improvement of a student's writing skills from the beginning of the school year to the end of the school year;

(3) a student's ability to follow the writing process from rough draft to final product; and

(4) a student's ability to produce more than one type of writing style.

(b) During the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, the



1 (1) the school district in which the student is
2 enrolled and that is participating in the pilot program;

3 (2) a public junior college or institution of higher
4 education that enters into an agreement with the participating
5 school district; and

6 (3) the regional education service center that serves
7 the participating district.

8 (g) A random sampling of scored student writing
9 assessments, the size of which the agency shall determine, shall be
10 delivered to the agency.

11 (h) Not later than September 1, 2016, the agency shall
12 prepare and deliver to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
13 speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding officer
14 of each legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction
15 over primary and secondary education a report covering the study of
16 the development of the writing assessment method under Subsection
17 (a). Not later than September 1 of each year in 2017 and 2018, the
18 agency shall prepare and deliver to the governor, the lieutenant
19 governor, the ti.90tBj0Td(the)Tnd

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1 this section.

2 (j) This section expires September 1, 2019.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

