

H.B. 2237

Included in H.B. 2237 is a “college and workforce readiness program” to help expand proven programs that provide trained volunteers in Texas schools.

The Legislature has focused on college and workforce readiness as key education issues, along with dropout prevention and personal financial literacy. In school districts throughout Texas, organizations such as Junior Achievement help school districts address these issues. The 23 JA offices across Texas currently reach 330,000 elementary and secondary students with 16,000 volunteers who teach both classroom and after-school programs. By partnering with school districts at no cost to them, JA and its trained volunteers are able to provide practical, hands-on applications and lessons. The volunteers emphasize the importance of staying in school, preparing for college and workforce, and learning about subjects such as personal financial literacy, economics, and the free enterprise system. In addition to delivering the curriculum, the volunteers, most of whom work in local businesses, serve as role models and mentors for students.

With the state’s increased focus on issues such as college and workforce readiness, dropout prevention, and financial literacy, school districts have expressed interest in expanding these programs, but the organizations have not had the capacity, in terms of recruiting and training more volunteers, to meet the demand.

This program could allow Junior Achievement to be able to recruit and train thousands more volunteers to reach tens of thousands more Texas students. The bill also would allow the Commissioner to study the JA programs to