



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN PROMOTES EARLY LANGUAGE TRAINING

HB 1451 Awards High School Credit for Elementary Dual Language Program

AUSTIN - Early in this legislative session, Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) filed HB 1451, which will allow pre-high school students to receive high school credit for dual language immersion programs taken in elementary school. HB 1451 recently passed out of the Public Education Committee, and was sent to the Local & Consent Calendar on **Wednesday, April 26.**

"It is no secret that it's easier to learn new things when we are young," explained Representative Guillen. "We should recognize the ability and knowledge of younger students and promote early enrollment in dual language immersion programs. With HB 1451 we can help build our students an even stronger educational foundation for the future."

Children enrolled in dual language immersion programs have the opportunity to become bilingual and learn to speak, write and read in both English and Spanish. According to the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, "intensive exposure to a target language is successful because it allows students to quickly reach the level of second-language proficiency required to study other subjects in the new language."

Currently, high school students are required to earn two credits in foreign language courses in order to graduate. This change would recognize the dual language proficiency of students coming into high school and free up time for those students to take classes in other subjects.

"It is important that we provide our children with an adequate education to prosper in today's changing society," said Guillen. "By updating the Texas High School credit system, we will allow students to grasp a wider scope of knowledge to benefit them in the future."

Representative Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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