



The Right to Recess Act

HB 17 - SB 19

Bill Text

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

AN ACT

relating to policies on the recess period in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
amended by adding Sections 28.0047 and 28.0048 to read as
follows:

Sec. 28.0047. MODEL RECESS POLICIES. The
Department of
State Health Services School Health Advisory Committee
established

under Section 1001.0711, Health and Safety Code, shall develop
model policies for the recess period during the school day that
encourage constructive, age-appropriate outdoor playtime. The
model policies must include guidelines for outdoor equipment and
facilities on public school campuses that maximize the
effectiveness of outdoor physical activity.

Sec. 28.0048. RECESS POLICY. (a) The board of trustees
of
each school district shall:

(1) after reviewing the model recess policies
developed under Section 28.0047 and the policy recommendations
of
the local school health advisory council provided under Section
28.004(1), adopt a recess policy based on those model policies and
recommendations; and

(2) review and, if necessary, revise the recess policy
at least every five years.

(b) The recess policy must specify:

(1) the required number of minutes of weekly
unstructured playtime; and

(2) whether a student's recess time may be withheld as
a form of student discipline.

(c) Each school district campus subject to the district
recess policy adopted under Subsection (a) shall implement the
recess policy.

SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2020, the

School

La Grulla High School

Senate Committee Laying Out

in

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Senate Author

Noah Ramirez

House Committee Laying Out

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Education

House Authors

Alan Saenz

Hiram Flores

Noah Ramirez

Lobbyist

Ismene Gutierrez

Journalist

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Department of State Health Services School Health Advisory Committee shall develop model recess policies as required by Section 28.0047, Education Code, as added by this Act.

(b) Not later than May 1, 2020, the board of trustees of each school district shall adopt a recess policy as required by Section 28.0048, Education Code, as added by this Act.

(c) Not later than the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, each school district campus subject to a school district recess policy adopted under Section 28.0048, Education Code, as added by this Act, shall implement the adopted policy.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2020.

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