

AN ACT

relating to the award of stipends to nationally certified classroom teachers under the educator excellence awards program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.705, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.705. AWARD PAYMENTS. A school district must use at least 60 percent of grant funds awarded to the district under this subchapter to directly award classroom teachers who effectively improve student achievement as determined by meaningful, objective measures. The remaining funds must be used only to:

(1) provide stipends to effective mentors or teacher coaches;

(2) provide stipends to classroom teachers who are certified in a subject that is designated by the commissioner as commonly experiencing a critical shortage of teachers;

(3) provide stipends to classroom teachers who are certified under Subchapter B in the main subject area in which they teach;

(4) provide stipends to classroom teachers with proven records of success for improving student performance who are assigned to campuses at which the district has experienced difficulty assigning or retaining teachers;

(5) provide stipends to classroom teachers who hold

1 postgraduate degrees;

2 (6) provide stipends to classroom teachers who hold
3 advanced certification from an organization that certifies at least
4 2,500 teachers in the United States each year based on the teachers'
5 satisfaction, through study, expert evaluation, self-assessment,
6 and peer review, of high and rigorous standards for accomplished
7 teaching;

8 (7) provide awards to principals who effectively
9 increase student performance as determined by objective measures;

10 (8) [~~(7)~~] provide awards to other campus employees who
11 demonstrate excellence; or

12 (9) [~~(8)~~] implement the components of a Teacher
13 Advancement Program (TAP), including:

14 (A) an instructionally focused accountability
15 system; and

16 (B) the adjustment of teaching schedules to
17 permit ongoing applied professional growth.

18 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010
19 school year.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 709 was passed by the House on April 15, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 709 was passed by the Senate on May 21, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor