

By: Hughes, Campbell

S.B. No. 1839

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the preparation, certification, and classification of public school educators.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.043, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.043. ACCESS TO PEIMS DATA. (a) The agency shall provide the board with access to data obtained under the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).

(b) The agency shall provide educator preparation programs with data based on information reported through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) that enables an educator preparation program to:

(1) assess the impact of the program; and
(2) revise the program as needed to improve the design and effectiveness of the program.

(c) The agency in coordination with the board shall solicit input from educator preparation programs to determine the data to be provided to educator preparation programs.

SECTION 2. Section 21.045, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) To assist an educator preparation program in improving the design and effectiveness of the program in preparing educators for the classroom, the agency shall provide to each program data

1 that is compiled and analyzed by the agency based on information
2 reported through the Public Education Information Management
3 System (PEIMS) relating to the program.

4 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
5 amended by adding Section 21.0489 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 21.0489. EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION. (a) To
7 ensure that there are teachers with special training in early
8 childhood education focusing on prekindergarten through grade
9 three, the board shall establish an early childhood certificate.

10 (b) A person is not required to hold a certificate
11 established under this section to be employed by a school district
12 to provide instruction in prekindergarten through grade three.

13 (c) To be eligible for a certificate established under this
14 section, a person must:

15 (1) either:

16 (A) satisfactorily complete the course work for
17 that certificate in an educator preparation program, including a
18 knowledge-based and skills-based course of instruction on early
19 childhood education that includes:

20 (i) teaching methods for:

21 (a) using small group instructional
22 formats that focus on building social, emotional, and academic
23 skills;

24 (b) navigating multiple content
25 areas; and

26 (c) managing a classroom environment
27 in which small groups of students are working on different tasks;

1 and

2 (ii) strategies for teaching fundamental
3 academic skills, including reading, writing, and numeracy; or

4 (B) hold an early childhood through grade six
5 certificate issued under this subchapter and satisfactorily
6 complete a course of instruction described by Paragraph (A);

7 (2) perform satisfactorily on an early childhood
8 certificate examination prescribed by the board; and

9 (3) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the
10 board.

11 (d) The criteria for the course of instruction described by
12 Subsection (c)(1)(A) shall be developed by the board in
13 consultation with faculty members who provide instruction at
14 institutions of higher education in educator preparation programs
15 for an early childhood through grade six certificate.

16 SECTION 4. Section 21.052, Education Code, is amended by
17 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

18 (a-1) The commissioner may adopt rules establishing
19 exceptions to the examination requirements prescribed by
20 Subsection (a)(3) for an educator from outside the state to obtain a
21 certificate in this state.

22 SECTION 5. Section 30A.112(b), Education Code, is amended
23 to read as follows:

24 (b) The state virtual school network may provide or
25 authorize providers of electronic professional development courses
26 to provide professional development for:

27 (1) teachers who are teaching subjects or grade levels

for which the teachers are not certified; or

(2) ~~[teachers who must become highly qualified under Section 1119, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6319), or~~

~~(3)]~~ teachers who must become qualified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq.).

SECTION 6. The following provisions of the Education Code are repealed:

- (1) Section 21.005;
- (2) Section 21.052(g); and
- (3) Section 21.057(e).

SECTION 7. The State Board for Educator Certification shall propose rules:

(1) establishing requirements and prescribing an examination for an early childhood certificate examination as required by Section 21.0489, Education Code, as added by this Act; and

(2) establishing standards to govern the approval and renewal of approval of educator preparation programs for early childhood certification.

SECTION 8. The commissioner of education is required to implement Sections 1 and 2 of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for the purpose of implementing Sections 1 and 2 of this Act, the commissioner of education may, but is not required to, implement those sections

S.B. No. 1839

1 using other appropriations available for that purpose.

2 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.