

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 713
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 8, 2019; March 1, 2019, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 29, 2019,
1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 29, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9			X	
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 713 By: Powell

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to a school district assigning a mentor teacher to a new
1-23 classroom teacher.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Section 21.458, Education Code, is amended by
1-26 adding Subsections (a-1), (b-1), (f), (f-1), and (g) and amending
1-27 Subsections (b) and (d) to read as follows:

1-28 (a-1) To be assigned as a mentor, a teacher must agree to
1-29 serve as a mentor teacher for at least one school year. The
1-30 assignment must begin not later than the 30th day of employment of
1-31 the classroom teacher to whom the mentor teacher is assigned. A
1-32 district must agree to assign a mentor to a new classroom teacher
1-33 for at least two school years.

1-34 (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
1-35 administer this section, including rules concerning the duties and
1-36 qualifications of a teacher who serves as a mentor and the number of
1-37 classroom teachers that may be assigned to a mentor. The rules
1-38 concerning qualifications must require that to serve as a mentor a
1-39 teacher must:

1-40 (1) complete a research-based mentor and induction
1-41 training program approved by the commissioner;

1-42 (2) complete a mentor training program provided by the
1-43 district; ~~and~~

1-44 (3) have at least three complete years of teaching
1-45 experience with a superior record of assisting students, as a
1-46 whole, in achieving improvement in student performance; and

1-47 (4) demonstrate interpersonal skills, instructional
1-48 effectiveness, and leadership skills.

1-49 (b-1) A school district must provide training to mentor
1-50 teachers and any appropriate district and campus employees who work
1-51 with the classroom teacher or supervise the classroom teacher. The
1-52 training must be completed by the mentor teacher and the district
1-53 and campus employees before the beginning of the school year. The
1-54 district shall also provide supplemental training to mentor
1-55 teachers and employees during the school year. The training must
1-56 include content related to best mentorship practices.

1-57 (d) In adopting rules under this section [~~Subsection (c)~~],
1-58 the commissioner shall rely on research-based mentoring programs
1-59 that, through external evaluation, have demonstrated success.

1-60 (f) A mentor teacher must meet with each classroom teacher

2-1 assigned to the mentor not less than 12 hours each semester.
2-2 Observations of the mentor by the classroom teacher being mentored
2-3 or of the classroom teacher being mentored by the mentor may count
2-4 toward the 12 hours of meeting time required for the semester.
2-5 Except as provided by Subsection (f-1), the mentoring sessions must
2-6 address the following topics:

2-7 (1) orientation to the context, policies, and
2-8 practices of the school district;

2-9 (2) data-driven instructional practices;

2-10 (3) specific instructional coaching cycles, including
2-11 coaching regarding conferences between parents and the classroom
2-12 teacher;

2-13 (4) professional development; and

2-14 (5) professional expectations.

2-15 (f-1) Subject to approval by the agency, in determining the
2-16 topics to be addressed in the mentoring sessions, a school district
2-17 may create an appropriate curriculum that meets the district needs.

2-18 (g) A school district must:

2-19 (1) designate a specific time during the regularly
2-20 contracted school day for meetings between mentor teachers and
2-21 classroom teachers assigned to a mentor; and

2-22 (2) schedule release time or a reduced teaching load
2-23 for mentor teachers and classroom teachers under this section to
2-24 facilitate mentoring activities, including classroom observations
2-25 or participation in supportive coaching.

2-26 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 42, Education Code, is
2-27 amended by adding Section 42.161 to read as follows:

2-28 Sec. 42.161. MENTOR PROGRAM ALLOTMENT. (a) A school
2-29 district that has implemented a mentoring program for classroom
2-30 teachers who have less than two years of teaching experience under
2-31 Section 21.458 is entitled to an allotment as determined under
2-32 Subsection (b) to fund the mentoring program and to provide
2-33 stipends for mentor teachers.

2-34 (b) The commissioner shall adopt a formula to determine the
2-35 amount to which each district described by Subsection (a) is
2-36 entitled.

2-37 (c) Funding provided to districts under this section may be
2-38 used only for providing:

2-39 (1) mentor teacher stipends;

2-40 (2) scheduled release time for mentor teachers and the
2-41 classroom teachers to whom they are assigned for meeting and
2-42 engaging in mentoring activities; and

2-43 (3) mentoring support through providers of mentor
2-44 training.

2-45 SECTION 3. Section 21.458(c), Education Code, is repealed.

2-46 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
2-47 school year.

2-48 SECTION 5. The Texas Education Agency is required to
2-49 implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature
2-50 appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the
2-51 legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
2-52 purpose, the Texas Education Agency may, but is not required to,
2-53 implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations
2-54 available for that purpose.

2-55 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-56 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-57 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-58 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-59 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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