

1-1 By: Allison, Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Paxton) H.B. No. 3298  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 14, 2021;  
 1-3 May 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Education; May 24, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote:  
 1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 3; May 24, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Taylor	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Bettencourt		X		
1-10 Hall		X		
1-11 Hughes	X			
1-12 Menéndez	X			
1-13 Paxton	X			
1-14 Perry		X		
1-15 Powell	X			
1-16 Schwertner	X			
1-17 West	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to computer science and technology education, training,  
 1-22 and curriculum.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is  
 1-25 amended by adding Section 21.466 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 21.466. COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS  
 1-27 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section,  
 1-28 "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by  
 1-29 Section 61.003.

1-30 (b) The commissioner shall establish a competitive  
 1-31 professional development grant program to encourage teachers to:

1-32 (1) obtain computer science certification; and

1-33 (2) continue professional development in coding,  
 1-34 computational thinking, cybersecurity, and computer science  
 1-35 education.

1-36 (c) From money appropriated for the purpose, the  
 1-37 commissioner shall make grants to eligible providers that offer:

1-38 (1) professional development for classroom teachers  
 1-39 to ensure teachers maintain a working knowledge of current computer  
 1-40 industry standard tools and resources; and

1-41 (2) training for computer science certification for  
 1-42 teachers in accordance with certification requirements adopted by  
 1-43 the State Board for Educator Certification.

1-44 (d) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
 1-45 provider must:

1-46 (1) be an institution of higher education, regional  
 1-47 education service center, or school district or partnership of  
 1-48 multiple school districts or a nonprofit entity approved by the  
 1-49 commissioner that has demonstrated experience in providing  
 1-50 professional development through a statewide network; and

1-51 (2) meet eligibility standards established by  
 1-52 commissioner rule.

1-53 (e) An eligible provider receiving a grant under this  
 1-54 section must:

1-55 (1) provide the training or professional development  
 1-56 described by Subsection (c) and establish professional development  
 1-57 hubs in each education service center region;

1-58 (2) serve high-need campuses;

1-59 (3) have established partnerships with institution of  
 1-60 higher education faculty with expertise in cybersecurity,  
 1-61 computing, and computer science education; and

2-1                   (4) develop partnerships with computer industry  
2-2 professionals.  
2-3                   (f) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
2-4 implement this section.  
2-5                   SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
2-6 amended by adding Section 28.0181 to read as follows:  
2-7                   Sec. 28.0181. COMPUTER SCIENCE STRATEGIC ADVISORY  
2-8 COMMITTEE. (a) In this section, "advisory committee" means the  
2-9 computer science strategic advisory committee established under  
2-10 this section.  
2-11                   (b) The agency shall establish the computer science  
2-12 strategic advisory committee as a permanent advisory committee to  
2-13 the agency to develop and provide recommendations for increasing  
2-14 computer science instruction and participation in public schools.  
2-15                   (c) The advisory committee is composed of at least 11  
2-16 members. The members must include:  
2-17                   (1) two members appointed by the governor;  
2-18                   (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;  
2-19                   (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house  
2-20 of representatives;  
2-21                   (4) one member appointed by the chair of the senate  
2-22 committee with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary  
2-23 education;  
2-24                   (5) one member appointed by the chair of the senate  
2-25 committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education;  
2-26                   (6) one member appointed by the chair of the house of  
2-27 representatives committee with primary jurisdiction over primary  
2-28 and secondary education;  
2-29                   (7) one member appointed by the chair of the house of  
2-30 representatives committee with primary jurisdiction over higher  
2-31 education;  
2-32                   (8) one member appointed by the chair of the State  
2-33 Board of Education; and  
2-34                   (9) any other members added by the advisory committee  
2-35 in a manner determined by the committee in the committee's  
2-36 discretion.  
2-37                   (d) In appointing members to the advisory committee, the  
2-38 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of  
2-39 representatives shall coordinate appointments to ensure that the  
2-40 six individuals appointed to the advisory committee collectively by  
2-41 those officers include:  
2-42                   (1) three educators who teach in a public school and  
2-43 are certified in computer science;  
2-44                   (2) one parent or person standing in parental relation  
2-45 to a student enrolled in a public school;  
2-46                   (3) one person employed in the technology industry;  
2-47 and  
2-48                   (4) one faculty member of an institution of higher  
2-49 education.  
2-50                   (e) The governor shall designate a member of the advisory  
2-51 committee as the presiding officer of the advisory committee to  
2-52 serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor.  
2-53                   (f) The advisory committee may hold public meetings.  
2-54                   (g) Members of the advisory committee are not entitled to  
2-55 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual and  
2-56 necessary expenses incurred in fulfilling committee duties.  
2-57                   (h) The agency shall appoint an agency employee to support  
2-58 the advisory committee.  
2-59                   (i) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the  
2-60 advisory committee shall submit to the governor and the legislature  
2-61 a report that includes recommended changes to state law, including  
2-62 funding proposals and timelines for the implementation of the  
2-63 recommended changes. The report shall include recommendations that  
2-64 are intended to:  
2-65                   (1) increase the number of certified computer science  
2-66 teachers;  
2-67                   (2) increase the number of public high schools  
2-68 offering computer science courses;  
2-69                   (3) increase the number of high school students

3-1 enrolled in computer science courses;  
3-2 (4) encourage the enrollment of diverse student  
3-3 populations in computer science courses; and  
3-4 (5) expand computer science learning opportunities,  
3-5 including computer programming, computer coding, cybersecurity,  
3-6 and computational thinking, in public schools.

3-7 SECTION 3. Section 5, Chapter 1149 (H.B. 2984), Acts of the  
3-8 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is repealed.

3-9 SECTION 4. Not later than December 31, 2021, the  
3-10 commissioner of education shall establish the grant program  
3-11 required under Section 21.466, Education Code, as added by this  
3-12 Act.

3-13 SECTION 5. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
3-14 of this Act, the appropriate persons, as provided by Section  
3-15 28.0181(c), Education Code, as added by this Act, shall appoint  
3-16 members to the computer science strategic advisory committee.

3-17 SECTION 6. Not later than December 31, 2022, the State Board  
3-18 of Education shall review and revise, as needed, the essential  
3-19 knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum as  
3-20 required by Section 28.002(c-3), Education Code, as added by  
3-21 Chapter 1149 (H.B. 2984), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular  
3-22 Session, 2019.

3-23 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3-24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3-25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3-26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3-27 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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