

1-1 By: Menéndez, King S.B. No. 735
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 7, 2025; February 7, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education K-16;
1-4 April 24, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10,
1-5 Nays 0; April 24, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Creighton	X		
1-9	Campbell	X		
1-10	Bettencourt	X		
1-11	Hagenbuch		X	
1-12	Hinojosa of Nueces	X		
1-13	King	X		
1-14	Menéndez	X		
1-15	Middleton	X		
1-16	Parker	X		
1-17	Paxton	X		
1-18	West	X		

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

1-21 relating to Holocaust education and training provided to students
1-22 enrolled at public schools and public institutions of higher
1-23 education.

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

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 8, Education Code, is
1-26 amended by adding Section 8.065 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 8.065. COLLABORATION WITH HOLOCAUST MUSEUMS. Each
1-28 regional education service center shall on a regular basis
1-29 collaborate with one or more of the Holocaust museums in this state
1-30 to expand educator training and classroom education opportunities
1-31 regarding Holocaust education.

1-32 SECTION 2. Section 29.9072, Education Code, is amended by
1-33 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read
1-34 as follows:

1-35 (a) In this section, "Holocaust" has the meaning assigned by
1-36 Section 448.001 [449.001], Government Code.

1-37 (d) Not later than June 1 of each school year, each school
1-38 district and open-enrollment charter school shall submit to the
1-39 agency a report regarding the Holocaust Remembrance Week
1-40 instruction offered by the district or school for that school year
1-41 under this section. The report must include the activities,
1-42 lessons, and instructional materials used for the instruction.

1-43 (e) As soon as practicable after June 1 of each school year,
1-44 the agency shall compile all reports submitted under Subsection (d)
1-45 for the school year and submit the compiled information to each
1-46 regional education service center and the Texas Holocaust,
1-47 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission.

1-48 SECTION 3. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
1-49 amended by adding Section 29.90721 to read as follows:

1-50 Sec. 29.90721. HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE WEEK GRANT PROGRAM.

1-51 (a) In this section:

1-52 (1) "Advisory commission" means the Texas Holocaust,
1-53 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission.

1-54 (2) "Commission" means the Texas Historical
1-55 Commission.

1-56 (3) "Holocaust" has the meaning assigned by Section
1-57 448.001, Government Code.

1-58 (b) From money appropriated for purposes of this section,
1-59 the commission, in coordination with the advisory commission, shall
1-60 establish and administer a grant program to provide grants to
1-61 school districts and museums, centers, and other relevant

organizations in this state to assist in the implementation of Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction under Section 29.9072. The commission may award a grant for purposes of:

(1) developing optional, age-appropriate lesson plans for classroom teachers who lack relevant subject matter expertise regarding the Holocaust;

(2) sponsoring student field trips to the Holocaust museums in this state, with priority given to campuses in urban and rural districts;

(3) providing training approved by the advisory commission for educators and for administrators who manage professional development and teacher training in each district;

(4) cataloging and expanding relevant audiovisual and digital classroom resources, including resources maintained by Holocaust museums in this state; and

(5) developing, in collaboration with museums, bilingual curricula to meet the needs of more students in this state and making the curricula available on the advisory commission's Internet website.

(c) The commission, in coordination with the advisory commission, shall adopt rules as necessary to establish and administer the grant program under this section.

SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0767 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0767. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE DELIVERY OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION. (a) The board shall establish a pilot program at institutions of higher education selected by the board to train students enrolled in an educator preparation program to provide more effective instruction related to the history and remembrance of the Holocaust. The board may adopt rules as necessary to administer this section.

(b) An institution of higher education selected under this section must have an educator preparation program approved by the State Board for Educator Certification or be affiliated with a program approved by the State Board for Educator Certification.

(c) At least 50 percent of the institutions of higher education selected by the board must be located in an area or likely to graduate educators who will teach in a public school in an area where the applicable school district has demonstrated low participation in Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction.

(d) The board shall collaborate with the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission to establish minimum curriculum requirements, guidelines, and procedures necessary for the implementation of the pilot program.

(e) The board shall use any funds appropriated or otherwise made available for purposes of the pilot program and may accept gifts, grants, and donations to fund the pilot program.

(f) The pilot program shall operate for four full academic years.

(g) An institution of higher education selected for the pilot program shall annually report to the board in the manner prescribed by the board data and information regarding the operation of the pilot program.

(h) The report required by Subsection (g) must contain, with respect to the preceding academic year:

(1) a description of the manner in which the selected institution complied with the purpose of the pilot program and any difficulties encountered in complying with that purpose, including timelines related to implementing the pilot program;

(2) data regarding the institution's students receiving instruction under the pilot program through an educator preparation program;

(3) information regarding any third-party entities or organizations the institution collaborates with to deliver instruction under the pilot program through an educator preparation program; and

(4) a survey of educator preparation program students and faculty who participated in the pilot program at the institution, including feedback regarding the results of the pilot

3-1 program and information regarding the marketability and subsequent
3-2 teaching careers of participating students.

3-3 (i) The board shall compile a biennial report based on the
3-4 data and information received under Subsection (g) regarding the
3-5 operation of the pilot program and the results of the survey of
3-6 educator preparation program students and faculty who participated
3-7 in the pilot program at each of the selected institutions during the
3-8 preceding biennium. Not later than September 1 of each
3-9 odd-numbered year, the board shall deliver a copy of the report to
3-10 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
3-11 representatives, and the chair of each standing committee of the
3-12 legislature having primary jurisdiction over higher education.

3-13 (j) The biennial report produced by the board before
3-14 September 1, 2029, must include a recommendation regarding whether
3-15 the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or terminated.

3-16 (k) Before September 1, 2031, the board shall conduct a
3-17 final survey of educator preparation program students and faculty
3-18 who participated in the pilot program at the selected institutions
3-19 at any time during the operation of the program, including feedback
3-20 regarding the results of the pilot program and information
3-21 regarding the marketability and teaching careers of participating
3-22 students. The board shall publish the results of the survey on its
3-23 Internet website.

3-24 (l) The pilot program concludes and this section expires
3-25 December 1, 2031.

3-26 SECTION 5. Section 29.9072, Education Code, as amended by
3-27 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

3-28 SECTION 6. As soon as practicable after the effective date
3-29 of this Act, the Texas Historical Commission, in coordination with
3-30 the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory
3-31 Commission, shall establish the grant program required by Section
3-32 29.90721, Education Code, as added by this Act.

3-33 SECTION 7. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
3-34 shall select public institutions of higher education for the pilot
3-35 program required under Section 61.0767, Education Code, as added by
3-36 this Act, not later than May 1, 2026.

3-37 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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