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H.B. No. 244

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting  
3 computer science certification and professional development in  
4 coding, technology applications, cybersecurity, and computer  
5 science for public school teachers.

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

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

9 Sec. 21.466. COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS  
10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section,  
11 "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by  
12 Section 61.003.

13 (b) The commissioner may establish a competitive  
14 professional development grant program to encourage teachers to:

15 (1) obtain computer science certification; and

16 (2) continue professional development in coding,  
17 computational thinking, cybersecurity, and computer science  
18 education.

19 (c) From any federal funds available for this purpose, the  
20 commissioner may make grants to eligible providers that offer:

21 (1) professional development for classroom teachers  
22 to ensure teachers maintain a working knowledge of current computer  
23 industry standard tools and resources; and

24 (2) training for computer science certification for

1 teachers in accordance with certification requirements adopted by  
2 the State Board for Educator Certification.

3 (d) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
4 provider must:

5 (1) be an institution of higher education, regional  
6 education service center, or school district or partnership of  
7 multiple school districts or a nonprofit entity approved by the  
8 commissioner that has demonstrated experience in providing  
9 professional development through a statewide network; and

10 (2) meet eligibility standards established by  
11 commissioner rule.

12 (e) An eligible provider receiving a grant under this  
13 section must:

14 (1) provide the training or professional development  
15 described by Subsection (c) and establish professional development  
16 hubs in each education service center region;

17 (2) serve high-need campuses;

18 (3) have established partnerships with institution of  
19 higher education faculty with expertise in cybersecurity,  
20 computing, and computer science education; and

21 (4) develop partnerships with computer industry  
22 professionals.

23 (f) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
24 implement this section.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.