

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting
3 computer science certification and professional development in
4 coding, technology applications, and computer science for public
5 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 shall 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, and computer science education.

18 (c) From money appropriated for the purpose, the
19 commissioner shall make grants to eligible providers that offer:

20 (1) professional development for elementary school
21 and middle and junior high school teachers to ensure teachers
22 maintain a working knowledge of current computer industry standard
23 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 computing and computer
20 science education; and

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

23 (f) The total amount of grants awarded under this section
24 for a state fiscal biennium may not exceed \$4 million.

25 (g) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
26 implement this section.

27 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2021, the

1 commissioner of education shall establish the grant program
2 required under Section 21.466, Education Code, as added by this
3 Act.

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