

By: Lopez

H.B. No. 1613

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirement for certain public school teachers and principals to attend a literacy achievement academy or otherwise demonstrate proficiency in reading instruction.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.0062(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall:

(1) provide for the use of a phonics curriculum that uses systematic direct instruction in kindergarten through third grade to ensure all students obtain necessary early literacy skills;

(2) ensure that:

(A) not later than the 2023-2024 [~~2021-2022~~] school year, each classroom teacher in kindergarten or first, second, or third grade and each principal at a campus with kindergarten or first, second, or third grade has:

(i) attended a teacher literacy achievement academy developed under Section 21.4552; or

(ii) demonstrated proficiency in the science of teaching reading on a certification examination in accordance with rules adopted under Section 21.048(a-2); and

(B) each classroom teacher and each principal

1 initially employed in a grade level or at a campus described by
2 Paragraph (A) for the 2023-2024 [~~2021-2022~~] school year or a
3 subsequent school year has attended a teacher literacy achievement
4 academy developed under Section [21.4552](#) before the teacher's or
5 principal's first year of placement in that grade level or campus;
6 and

7 (3) certify to the agency that the district or school:

8 (A) prioritizes placement of highly effective
9 teachers in kindergarten through second grade; and

10 (B) has integrated reading instruments used to
11 diagnose reading development and comprehension to support each
12 student in prekindergarten through third grade.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.