

By: Allison, Guillen

H.B. No. 3298

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to computer science and technology education, training,  
and curriculum.

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

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

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

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

(1) obtain computer science certification; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

8            (2) meet eligibility standards established by  
9 commissioner rule.

10        (e) An eligible provider receiving a grant under this  
11 section must:

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

15            (2) serve high-need campuses;

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

19            (4) develop partnerships with computer industry  
20 professionals.

21        (f) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
22 implement this section.

23        SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
24 amended by adding Section 28.0181 to read as follows:

25        Sec. 28.0181. COMPUTER SCIENCE STRATEGIC ADVISORY  
26 COMMITTEE. (a) In this section, "advisory committee" means the  
27 computer science strategic advisory committee established under

1 this section.

2 (b) The agency shall establish the computer science  
3 strategic advisory committee as a permanent advisory committee to  
4 the agency to develop and provide recommendations for increasing  
5 computer science instruction and participation in public schools.

6 (c) The advisory committee is composed of at least 11  
7 members. The members must include:

8 (1) two members appointed by the governor;

9 (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

10 (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house  
11 of representatives;

12 (4) one member appointed by the chair of the senate  
13 committee with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary  
14 education;

15 (5) one member appointed by the chair of the senate  
16 committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education;

17 (6) one member appointed by the chair of the house of  
18 representatives committee with primary jurisdiction over primary  
19 and secondary education;

20 (7) one member appointed by the chair of the house of  
21 representatives committee with primary jurisdiction over higher  
22 education;

23 (8) one member appointed by the chair of the State  
24 Board of Education; and

25 (9) any other members added by the advisory committee  
26 in a manner determined by the committee in the committee's  
27 discretion.

1       (d) In appointing members to the advisory committee, the  
2 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of  
3 representatives shall coordinate appointments to ensure that the  
4 six individuals appointed to the advisory committee collectively by  
5 those officers include:

6           (1) three educators who teach in a public school and  
7 are certified in computer science;

8           (2) one parent or person standing in parental relation  
9 to a student enrolled in a public school;

10           (3) one person employed in the technology industry;  
11 and

12           (4) one faculty member of an institution of higher  
13 education.

14       (e) The governor shall designate a member of the advisory  
15 committee as the presiding officer of the advisory committee to  
16 serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor.

17       (f) The advisory committee may hold public meetings.

18       (g) Members of the advisory committee are not entitled to  
19 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual and  
20 necessary expenses incurred in fulfilling committee duties.

21       (h) The agency shall appoint an agency employee to support  
22 the advisory committee.

23       (i) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the  
24 advisory committee shall submit to the governor and the legislature  
25 a report that includes recommended changes to state law, including  
26 funding proposals and timelines for the implementation of the  
27 recommended changes. The report shall include recommendations that

1 are intended to:

2 (1) increase the number of certified computer science  
3 teachers;

4 (2) increase the number of public high schools  
5 offering computer science courses;

6 (3) increase the number of high school students  
7 enrolled in computer science courses;

8 (4) encourage the enrollment of diverse student  
9 populations in computer science courses; and

10 (5) expand computer science learning opportunities,  
11 including computer programming, computer coding, cybersecurity,  
12 and computational thinking, in public schools.

13 SECTION 3. Section 5, Chapter 1149 (H.B. 2984), Acts of the  
14 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is repealed.

15 SECTION 4. Not later than December 31, 2021, the  
16 commissioner of education shall establish the grant program  
17 required under Section 21.466, Education Code, as added by this  
18 Act.

19 SECTION 5. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
20 of this Act, the appropriate persons, as provided by Section  
21 28.0181(c), Education Code, as added by this Act, shall appoint  
22 members to the computer science strategic advisory committee.

23 SECTION 6. Not later than December 31, 2022, the State Board  
24 of Education shall review and revise, as needed, the essential  
25 knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum as  
26 required by Section 28.002(c-3), Education Code, as added by  
27 Chapter 1149 (H.B. 2984), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular

1 Session, 2019.

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