

By: Allison

H.B. No. 3298

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to computer science and technology applications in public  
3 schools, including the essential knowledge and skills of the  
4 technology applications curriculum, the establishment of a  
5 computer science strategic advisory committee, and the  
6 establishment of a computer science and technology applications  
7 professional development grant program for public school teachers.

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

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

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

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

17 (1) obtain computer science certification; and  
18 (2) continue professional development in coding,  
19 computational thinking, and computer science education.

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

22 (1) professional development for elementary school  
23 and middle and junior high school teachers to ensure teachers  
24 maintain a working knowledge of current computer industry standard

1 tools and resources; and

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

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

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

12 (2) meet eligibility standards established by  
13 commissioner rule.

14 (e) An eligible provider receiving a grant under this  
15 section must:

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

19 (2) serve high-need campuses;

20 (3) have established partnerships with institution of  
21 higher education faculty with expertise in computing and computer  
22 science education; and

23 (4) develop partnerships with computer industry  
24 professionals.

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

27 (g) The commissioner may award grants under this section if

1 funds are available for that purpose from:

2 (1) appropriated funds;

3 (2) excess funds identified under Subsection (h);

4 (3) federal funds;

5 (4) any gifts or donations received by the  
6 commissioner; or

7 (5) funding provided by a public-private partnership.

8 (h) If the commissioner certifies that the amount  
9 appropriated for a state fiscal year for purposes of the Foundation  
10 School Program exceeds the amount to which school districts are  
11 entitled under Chapters 46 and 48 for that year, the commissioner  
12 may use the excess funds to award grants under this section.

13 (i) The commissioner shall notify eligible providers as  
14 soon as practicable regarding the availability of funds under this  
15 section.

16 (j) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
17 implement this section.

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

20 Sec. 28.0181. COMPUTER SCIENCE STRATEGIC ADVISORY  
21 COMMITTEE. (a) In this section, "advisory committee" means the  
22 computer science strategic advisory committee established under  
23 this section.

24 (b) The agency shall establish the computer science  
25 strategic advisory committee to develop and provide  
26 recommendations for increasing computer science instruction and  
27 participation in public schools.

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

3               (1) two members appointed by the governor;

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

5               (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house  
6 of representatives;

7               (4) one member appointed by the chair of the senate  
8 committee with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary  
9 education;

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

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

15              (7) one member appointed by the chair of the house of  
16 representatives committee with primary jurisdiction over higher  
17 education;

18              (8) one member appointed by the chair of the State  
19 Board of Education; and

20              (9) any other members added by the advisory committee  
21 in a manner determined by the committee in the committee's  
22 discretion.

23       (d) In appointing members to the advisory committee, the  
24 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of  
25 representatives shall coordinate appointments to ensure that the  
26 six individuals appointed to the advisory committee collectively by  
27 those officers include:

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

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

5           (3) one person employed in the technology industry;  
6 and

7           (4) one faculty member of an institution of higher  
8 education.

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

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

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

16           (h) Staff members of the agency shall provide  
17 administrative support for the advisory committee.

18           (i) Funds available for purposes of Section 21.466, subject  
19 to any applicable restrictions, may be used to cover the cost of the  
20 administrative and operational expenses of the advisory committee.

21           (j) Not later than September 1, 2022, the advisory committee  
22 shall submit to the governor and the legislature a report that  
23 includes recommended changes to state law, including funding  
24 proposals and timelines for the implementation of the recommended  
25 changes. The report shall include recommendations that are intended  
26 to:

27           (1) increase the number of certified computer science

1 teachers;

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

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

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

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

11 (k) The advisory committee is abolished and this section  
12 expires January 1, 2023.

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.