

AN ACT

relating to teacher requirements for high quality prekindergarten programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.167, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (d) and adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (b-3) to read as follows:

(b) Each teacher for a prekindergarten program class must:

(1) be certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21; and

(2) have one of the following additional qualifications:

(A) an associate or baccalaureate degree in early childhood education or a related field;

(B) a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or another early childhood education credential approved by the agency;

(C) [~~(B)~~] certification offered through a training center accredited by Association Montessori Internationale or through the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education;

(D) [~~(C)~~] at least eight years' experience of teaching in a nationally accredited child care program or a Texas Rising Star Program;

(E) [~~(D)~~] be employed as a prekindergarten

1 teacher in a school district that has received approval from the
2 commissioner for the district's prekindergarten-specific
3 instructional training plan that the teacher uses in the teacher's
4 prekindergarten classroom; or

5 (F) [~~E~~] an equivalent qualification.

6 (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), each teacher for a
7 prekindergarten class provided by an entity with which a school
8 district contracts to provide a prekindergarten program must:

9 (1) be supervised by a person who meets the
10 requirements under Subsection (b); and

11 (2) have one of the following qualifications:

12 (A) at least two years' experience of teaching in
13 a nationally accredited child care program or a Texas Rising Star
14 Program and:

15 (i) a Child Development Associate (CDA)
16 credential or another early childhood education credential
17 approved by the agency; or

18 (ii) certification offered through a
19 training center accredited by Association Montessori
20 Internationale or through the Montessori Accreditation Council for
21 Teacher Education; or

22 (B) a qualification described by Subsection
23 (b)(2)(A), (D), (E), or (F).

24 (b-2) A person who supervises a prekindergarten program
25 provided by an entity with which a school district contracts for
26 that purpose may supervise multiple prekindergarten classrooms to:

27 (1) ensure programmatic compliance; and

1 (2) support:

2 (A) classroom instruction;

3 (B) the developmental needs of students; and

4 (C) continuous quality improvement, including
5 professional development.

6 (b-3) Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) and this subsection
7 expire September 1, 2029.

8 (d) A school district or an entity with which the district
9 contracts to provide a prekindergarten program must attempt to
10 maintain an average ratio in any prekindergarten program class of
11 not less than one qualified [~~certified~~] teacher or teacher's aide
12 for each 11 students.

13 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
14 school year.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2729 was passed by the House on May 2, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 95, Nays 48, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2729 on May 25, 2023, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2729 on May 28, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 93, Nays 47, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 2729

I certify that H.B. No. 2729 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 17, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 20, Nays 11; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2729 on May 28, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 20, Nays 11.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor