

By: Lozano

H.B. No. 2929

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing education and training requirements for classroom teachers and public school counselors.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.054(d), Education Code, as amended by Chapters 1045 (S.B. 1267) and 973 (S.B. 2066), Acts of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(d) Subject to Subsection (d-2), continuing ~~[Continuing]~~ education requirements for a classroom teacher may not require ~~[must provide]~~ that ~~[not]~~ more than 25 percent of the training required every five years include instruction regarding:

(1) collecting and analyzing information that will improve effectiveness in the classroom;

(2) recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;

(3) digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into classroom instruction;

(4) educating diverse student populations, including:

(A) students who are educationally disadvantaged; and

(B) students at risk of dropping out of school;

and

(5) understanding appropriate relationships,

1 boundaries, and communications between educators and students.

2 SECTION 2. Section 21.054, Education Code, is amended by
3 adding Subsection (d-2) and amending Subsection (f) to read as
4 follows:

5 (d-2) Training in a topic of instruction described by
6 Subsection (d) attended by a classroom teacher in excess of an
7 amount of hours equal to 25 percent of the training required of the
8 teacher every five years shall be counted toward the teacher's
9 overall training requirements.

10 (f) Continuing education requirements for a counselor must
11 provide that at least ~~[not more than]~~ 25 percent of training
12 required every five years include instruction regarding:

13 (1) assisting students in developing high school
14 graduation plans;

15 (2) implementing dropout prevention strategies;

16 (3) informing students concerning:

17 (A) college admissions, including college
18 financial aid resources and application procedures; and

19 (B) career opportunities;

20 (4) counseling students concerning mental health
21 conditions and substance abuse, including through the use of
22 grief-informed and trauma-informed interventions and crisis
23 management and suicide prevention strategies; and

24 (5) effective implementation of a comprehensive
25 school counseling program under Section 33.005.

26 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
27 school year.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.