

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 1315

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a computer science strategic advisory committee and a grant program for the professional development and training of computer science classroom teachers.

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

1 the State Board for Educator Certification.

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

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

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

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

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

16 (2) serve high-need campuses;

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

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

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

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

26 Sec. 28.0181. COMPUTER SCIENCE STRATEGIC ADVISORY
27 COMMITTEE. (a) In this section, "advisory committee" means the

1 computer science strategic advisory committee established under
2 this section.

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

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

9 (1) two members appointed by the governor;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 discretion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 recommended changes. The report shall include recommendations that
2 are intended to:

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

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

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

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

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

14 SECTION 3. Section 5, Chapter 1149 (H.B. 2984), Acts of the
15 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is repealed.

16 SECTION 4. Not later than December 31, 2023, the
17 commissioner of education shall establish the grant program
18 required under Section 21.466, Education Code, as added by this
19 Act.

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

24 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.