

AN ACT

relating to a technology immersion pilot project in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. TECHNOLOGY IMMERSION PILOT PROJECT

Sec. 32.151. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROJECT. The agency may by rule establish the technology immersion pilot project to provide a wireless mobile computing device to each student in a participating school and implement the use of software, on-line courses, and other appropriate learning technologies that have been shown to improve academic achievement and the progress measures listed in Section 32.155(e).

Sec. 32.152. PILOT PROJECT ADMINISTRATION. If the agency establishes the pilot project under Section 32.151, the agency shall establish a procedure and develop criteria for the administration of the pilot project. In administering the pilot project, the agency shall:

- (1) select participating school districts or schools;
- (2) define the conditions for the distribution and use of computer equipment and other technologies;
- (3) purchase and distribute computer equipment and other technologies;
- (4) enter into contracts as necessary to implement the

1 pilot project;

2 (5) monitor local pilot project implementation; and

3 (6) conduct a final evaluation of the pilot project.

4 Sec. 32.153. PILOT PROJECT FUNDING. (a) To implement the
5 pilot project, the agency may use any gift, grant, or donation given
6 for the pilot project. The agency may solicit and accept a gift,
7 grant, or donation of any kind from any source, including from a
8 foundation, private entity, governmental entity, and institution
9 of higher education, for the implementation of the pilot project.
10 The agency may not use money from the general revenue fund for
11 purposes of the pilot project.

12 (b) Funds for the pilot project may not be used for the
13 construction of a building or other facility.

14 (c) The agency shall use pilot project funds for:

15 (1) the purchase of wireless mobile computing devices
16 so that each student in a participating classroom has a wireless
17 mobile computing device for use at school and at home;

18 (2) the purchase of other equipment, including
19 additional computer hardware and software;

20 (3) the hiring of technical support staff for school
21 districts or schools participating in the pilot project; and

22 (4) the purchase of technology-based learning
23 materials and resources.

24 (d) The agency may not allocate more than \$1 million for a
25 school participating in the pilot project.

26 (e) The pilot project may be implemented only if sufficient
27 funds are available under this section for that purpose.

1 Sec. 32.154. DISTRICT OR SCHOOL SELECTION. (a) A school
2 district may apply to the agency for the establishment of a
3 technology immersion pilot project for the entire district or for a
4 particular school or group of schools in the district.

5 (b) The agency shall select the participating districts and
6 schools for the pilot project based on each district's or school's
7 need for the pilot project. In selecting participants, the agency
8 shall consider the following criteria:

9 (1) whether the district or school has limited access
10 to educational resources that could be improved through the use of
11 wireless mobile computing devices and other technologies;

12 (2) whether the district or school has the following
13 problems and whether those problems can be mitigated through the
14 use of wireless mobile computing devices and other technologies:

15 (A) documented teacher shortages in critical
16 areas;

17 (B) limited access to advanced placement
18 courses;

19 (C) low rates of satisfactory performance on
20 assessment instruments under Subchapter B, Chapter 39; and

21 (D) high dropout rates;

22 (3) the district's or school's readiness to
23 incorporate technology into its classrooms;

24 (4) the possibility of obtaining a trained technology
25 support staff and high-speed Internet services for the district or
26 school; and

27 (5) the methods the district or school will use to

1 measure the progress of the pilot project in the district or school
2 in accordance with Section 32.155(e).

3 (c) The agency shall if possible select at least five
4 schools to participate in the pilot project. At least one pilot
5 project should include students in grades 6-12. The agency may
6 select at least one entire school district and at least one entire
7 school in a second district to participate in the pilot project.

8 Sec. 32.155. COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE PROGRESS TEAM.

9 (a) Each participating school district or school shall establish a
10 community educational pipeline progress team to assist in
11 developing and implementing the technology immersion pilot
12 project.

13 (b) The board of trustees of a participating school
14 district, or of a district in which a participating school is
15 located, shall appoint individuals to the team. The team may be
16 composed of:

- 17 (1) educators;
- 18 (2) district-level administrators;
- 19 (3) community leaders;
- 20 (4) parents of students who attend a participating
21 school; and
- 22 (5) any other individual the board finds appropriate.

23 (c) The team shall develop an academic improvement plan that
24 details how the pilot project should be implemented in the
25 participating district or school. In developing the academic
26 improvement plan, the team shall consider:

- 27 (1) the educational problems in the district or school

1 that could be mitigated through the implementation of the pilot
2 project; and

3 (2) the technological and nontechnological resources
4 that are necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the
5 pilot project.

6 (d) The team shall recommend to the board of trustees how
7 the pilot project funds should be used to implement the academic
8 improvement plan developed under Subsection (c). The team may
9 recommend annually any necessary changes in the academic
10 improvement plan to the board. The agency must approve the academic
11 improvement plan, or any changes in the academic improvement plan,
12 before disbursing pilot project funds to the board.

13 (e) The board of trustees of each district participating in
14 the pilot project shall send an annual progress report to the agency
15 not later than August 1 of each year that the district is
16 participating in the pilot project. The report must state in detail
17 the type of plan being used in the district or school and the effect
18 of the pilot project on the district or school, including:

19 (1) the academic progress of students who are
20 participating in a pilot project, as measured by performance on
21 assessment instruments;

22 (2) if applicable, a comparison of student progress in
23 a school or classroom that is participating in the pilot project as
24 compared with student progress in the schools or classrooms in the
25 district that are not participating in the pilot project;

26 (3) any elements of the pilot project that contribute
27 to improved student performance on assessment instruments

1 administered under Section 39.023 or any other assessment
2 instrument required by the agency;

3 (4) any cost savings and improved efficiency relating
4 to school personnel and the maintenance of facilities;

5 (5) any effect on student dropout and attendance
6 rates;

7 (6) any effect on student enrollment in higher
8 education;

9 (7) any effect on teacher performance and retention;

10 (8) any improvement in communications among students,
11 teachers, parents, and administrators;

12 (9) any improvement in parent involvement in the
13 education of the parent's child;

14 (10) any effect on community involvement and support
15 for the district or school; and

16 (11) any increased student proficiency in
17 technologies that will help prepare the student for becoming a
18 member of the workforce.

19 Sec. 32.156. COMPUTER RETENTION. Each student
20 participating in the pilot project may retain the wireless mobile
21 computing device provided under the pilot project as long as the
22 student is enrolled in a school in a participating school district.
23 The student may retain the wireless mobile computing device after
24 the expiration of the pilot project.

25 Sec. 32.157. PILOT PROJECT EVALUATION; EXPIRATION.
26 (a) After the expiration of the three-year pilot project, the
27 agency may review the pilot project based on the annual reports the

1 agency receives from the board of trustees of participating school
2 districts. The agency may include the review of the pilot project
3 in the comprehensive annual report required under Section 39.182
4 that covers the 2006-2007 school year.

5 (b) This subchapter expires August 31, 2007.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 396 passed the Senate on April 24, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 30, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 396 passed the House, with amendment, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 128, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor