

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 396

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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 shall by rule establish the technology immersion pilot project to:

(1) provide a laptop computer to each student in a participating school; and

(2) implement the use of certain software, on-line courses, and other appropriate learning technologies to improve academic achievement in a participating school.

Sec. 32.152. PILOT PROJECT ADMINISTRATION. 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 pilot project;

1 (5) monitor local pilot project implementation; and

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

3 Sec. 32.153. PILOT PROJECT FUNDING. (a) The agency may
4 obtain funds for the pilot project, to the extent possible, from the
5 telecommunications infrastructure fund.

6 (b) The agency shall use pilot project funds for:

7 (1) the purchase of laptop computers so that each
8 student in a participating classroom has a laptop computer for use
9 at school and at home;

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

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

14 (4) the purchase of technology-based learning
15 materials and resources.

16 (c) The agency may not allocate more than \$1 million for a
17 school participating in the pilot project.

18 Sec. 32.154. DISTRICT OR SCHOOL SELECTION. (a) A school
19 district may apply to the agency for the establishment of a
20 technology immersion pilot project for the entire district or for a
21 particular school or group of schools in the district.

22 (b) The agency shall select the participating districts and
23 schools for the pilot project based on the district's or school's
24 need for the pilot project. In selecting participants, the agency
25 shall consider the following criteria:

26 (1) whether the district or school has limited access
27 to educational resources that could be improved through the use of

1 laptop computers and other technologies;

2 (2) whether the district or school has the following
3 problems and whether those problems can be mitigated through the
4 use of laptop computers and other technologies:

5 (A) documented teacher shortages in critical
6 areas;

7 (B) limited access to advanced placement
8 courses;

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

11 (D) high dropout rates;

12 (3) the district's or school's readiness to
13 incorporate technology into its classrooms; and

14 (4) the possibility of obtaining a trained technology
15 support staff and high speed Internet services for the district or
16 school.

17 (c) The agency shall if possible select at least five
18 schools to participate in the pilot project. At least one pilot
19 project should include students in grades 6-12. The agency shall if
20 possible select at least one entire school district and at least one
21 entire school in a second district to participate in the pilot
22 project.

23 Sec. 32.155. COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE PROGRESS TEAM.

24 (a) Each participating school district or school shall establish a
25 community educational pipeline progress team.

26 (b) The board of trustees of a participating school
27 district, or of a district in which a participating school is

1 located, shall appoint individuals to the team. The team may be
2 composed of:

- 3 (1) educators;
- 4 (2) district-level administrators;
- 5 (3) community leaders;
- 6 (4) parents of students who attend a participating
7 school; and
- 8 (5) any other individual the board finds appropriate.

9 (c) The team shall develop an academic improvement plan that
10 details how the pilot project should be implemented in the
11 participating district or school. In developing the academic
12 improvement plan, the team shall consider:

- 13 (1) the educational problems in the district or school
14 that could be mitigated through the implementation of the pilot
15 project; and
- 16 (2) the technological and nontechnological resources
17 that are necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the
18 pilot project.

19 (d) The team shall recommend to the board how the pilot
20 project funds should be used to implement the academic improvement
21 plan developed under Subsection (c). The team may recommend
22 annually any necessary changes in the academic improvement plan to
23 the board. The agency must approve the academic improvement plan,
24 or any changes in the academic improvement plan, before disbursing
25 pilot project funds to the board.

26 (e) The board of trustees of each district participating in
27 the pilot project shall send an annual progress report to the agency

1 not later than August 1 of each year that the district is
2 participating in the pilot project. The report must state in
3 detail:

4 (1) the type of plan being used in the district or
5 school;

6 (2) the academic progress of students who are
7 participating in a pilot project, as measured by performance on
8 assessment instruments; and

9 (3) if applicable, a comparison of student progress in
10 a school or classroom that is participating in the pilot project as
11 compared with student progress in the schools or classrooms in the
12 district that are not participating in the pilot project.

13 Sec. 32.156. COMPUTER RETENTION. Each student
14 participating in the pilot project may retain the laptop computer
15 provided under the pilot project as long as the student is enrolled
16 in a school in a participating school district. The student may
17 retain the laptop computer after the expiration of the pilot
18 project.

19 Sec. 32.157. PILOT PROJECT EVALUATION; EXPIRATION. (a)
20 After the expiration of the three-year pilot project, the agency
21 shall review the pilot project based on the annual reports the
22 agency receives from the board of trustees of participating school
23 districts. The agency shall include the review of the pilot project
24 in the comprehensive annual report required under Section 39.182
25 that covers the 2006-2007 school year.

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

27 SECTION 2. The Texas Education Agency shall adopt rules to

1 implement Subchapter D, Chapter 32, Education Code, as added by
2 this Act, not later than January 1, 2004. The agency shall make the
3 technology immersion pilot project available for participation
4 beginning with the 2004-2005 school year.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.