

1-1 By: Shapleigh S.B. No. 396  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 6, 2003; February 12, 2003,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;  
1-4 April 15, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 15, 2003,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 396 By: Williams

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to a technology immersion pilot project in public schools.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Education Code, is amended by adding  
1-13 Subchapter D to read as follows:

1-14 SUBCHAPTER D. TECHNOLOGY IMMERSION PILOT PROJECT

1-15 Sec. 32.151. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROJECT. The agency  
1-16 may by rule establish the technology immersion pilot project to:

1-17 (1) provide a wireless mobile computing device to each  
1-18 student in a participating school; and

1-19 (2) implement the use of certain scientifically  
1-20 validated software, on-line courses, and other appropriate  
1-21 scientifically validated learning technologies that:

1-22 (A) will improve academic achievement in a  
1-23 participating school; and

1-24 (B) have been proven by scientifically validated  
1-25 research to accelerate the learning process.

1-26 Sec. 32.152. PILOT PROJECT ADMINISTRATION. If the agency  
1-27 establishes the pilot project under Section 32.151, the agency  
1-28 shall establish a procedure and develop criteria for the  
1-29 administration of the pilot project. In administering the pilot  
1-30 project, the agency shall:

1-31 (1) select participating school districts or schools;

1-32 (2) define the conditions for the distribution and use  
1-33 of computer equipment and other technologies;

1-34 (3) purchase and distribute computer equipment and  
1-35 other technologies;

1-36 (4) enter into contracts as necessary to implement the  
1-37 pilot project;

1-38 (5) monitor local pilot project implementation; and

1-39 (6) conduct a final evaluation of the pilot project.

1-40 Sec. 32.153. PILOT PROJECT FUNDING. (a) To implement the  
1-41 pilot project, the agency may use any gift, grant, or donation given  
1-42 for the pilot project. The agency may solicit and accept a gift,  
1-43 grant, or donation of any kind from any source, including from a  
1-44 foundation, private entity, governmental entity, and institution  
1-45 of higher education, for the implementation of the pilot project.  
1-46 The agency may not use money from the general revenue fund for  
1-47 purposes of the pilot project.

1-48 (b) Funds for the pilot project may not be used for the  
1-49 construction of a building or other facility.

1-50 (c) The agency shall use pilot project funds for:

1-51 (1) the purchase of wireless mobile computing devices  
1-52 so that each student in a participating classroom has a wireless  
1-53 mobile computing device for use at school and at home;

1-54 (2) the purchase of other equipment, including  
1-55 additional computer hardware and software;

1-56 (3) the hiring of technical support staff for school  
1-57 districts or schools participating in the pilot project; and

1-58 (4) the purchase of technology-based learning  
1-59 materials and resources.

1-60 (d) The agency may not allocate more than \$1 million for a  
1-61 school participating in the pilot project.

1-62 (e) The pilot project may be implemented only if sufficient  
1-63 funds are available under this section for that purpose.

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

2-5 (b) The agency shall select the participating districts and  
 2-6 schools for the pilot project based on each district's or school's  
 2-7 need for the pilot project. In selecting participants, the agency  
 2-8 shall consider the following criteria:

2-9 (1) whether the district or school has limited access  
 2-10 to educational resources that could be improved through the use of  
 2-11 wireless mobile computing devices and other technologies;

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

2-15 (A) documented teacher shortages in critical  
 2-16 areas;

2-17 (B) limited access to advanced placement  
 2-18 courses;

2-19 (C) low rates of satisfactory performance on  
 2-20 assessment instruments under Subchapter B, Chapter 39; and

2-21 (D) high dropout rates;

2-22 (3) the district's or school's readiness to  
 2-23 incorporate technology into its classrooms;

2-24 (4) the possibility of obtaining a trained technology  
 2-25 support staff and high-speed Internet services for the district or  
 2-26 school; and

2-27 (5) the methods the district or school will use to  
 2-28 measure the progress of the pilot project in the district or school  
 2-29 in accordance with Section 32.155(e).

2-30 (c) The agency shall if possible select at least five  
 2-31 schools to participate in the pilot project. At least one pilot  
 2-32 project should include students in grades 6-12. The agency may  
 2-33 select at least one entire school district and at least one entire  
 2-34 school in a second district to participate in the pilot project.

2-35 Sec. 32.155. COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE PROGRESS TEAM.

2-36 (a) Each participating school district or school shall establish a  
 2-37 community educational pipeline progress team to assist in  
 2-38 developing and implementing the technology immersion pilot  
 2-39 project.

2-40 (b) The board of trustees of a participating school  
 2-41 district, or of a district in which a participating school is  
 2-42 located, shall appoint individuals to the team. The team may be  
 2-43 composed of:

2-44 (1) educators;

2-45 (2) district-level administrators;

2-46 (3) community leaders;

2-47 (4) parents of students who attend a participating  
 2-48 school; and

2-49 (5) any other individual the board finds appropriate.

2-50 (c) The team shall develop an academic improvement plan that  
 2-51 details how the pilot project should be implemented in the  
 2-52 participating district or school. In developing the academic  
 2-53 improvement plan, the team shall consider:

2-54 (1) the educational problems in the district or school  
 2-55 that could be mitigated through the implementation of the pilot  
 2-56 project; and

2-57 (2) the technological and nontechnological resources  
 2-58 that are necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the  
 2-59 pilot project.

2-60 (d) The team shall recommend to the board how the pilot  
 2-61 project funds should be used to implement the academic improvement  
 2-62 plan developed under Subsection (c). The team may recommend  
 2-63 annually any necessary changes in the academic improvement plan to  
 2-64 the board. The agency must approve the academic improvement plan,  
 2-65 or any changes in the academic improvement plan, before disbursing  
 2-66 pilot project funds to the board.

2-67 (e) The board of trustees of each district participating in  
 2-68 the pilot project shall send an annual progress report to the agency  
 2-69 not later than August 1 of each year that the district is

3-1 participating in the pilot project. The report must state in detail  
3-2 the type of plan being used in the district or school and the effect  
3-3 of the pilot project on the district or school, including:

3-4 (1) the academic progress of students who are  
3-5 participating in a pilot project, as measured by performance on  
3-6 assessment instruments;

3-7 (2) if applicable, a comparison of student progress in  
3-8 a school or classroom that is participating in the pilot project as  
3-9 compared with student progress in the schools or classrooms in the  
3-10 district that are not participating in the pilot project;

3-11 (3) any elements of the pilot project that contribute  
3-12 to improved student performance on assessment instruments  
3-13 administered under Section 39.023 or any other assessment  
3-14 instrument required by the agency;

3-15 (4) any cost savings and improved efficiency relating  
3-16 to school personnel and the maintenance of facilities;

3-17 (5) any effect on student dropout and attendance  
3-18 rates;

3-19 (6) any effect on student enrollment in higher  
3-20 education;

3-21 (7) any effect on teacher performance and retention;

3-22 (8) any improvement in communications among students,  
3-23 teachers, parents, and administrators;

3-24 (9) any improvement in parent involvement in the  
3-25 education of the parent's child;

3-26 (10) any effect on community involvement and support  
3-27 for the district or school; and

3-28 (11) any increased student proficiency in  
3-29 technologies that will help prepare the student for becoming a  
3-30 member of the workforce.

3-31 Sec. 32.156. COMPUTER RETENTION. Each student  
3-32 participating in the pilot project may retain the wireless mobile  
3-33 computing device provided under the pilot project as long as the  
3-34 student is enrolled in a school in a participating school district.  
3-35 The student may retain the wireless mobile computing device after  
3-36 the expiration of the pilot project.

3-37 Sec. 32.157. PILOT PROJECT EVALUATION; EXPIRATION.

3-38 (a) After the expiration of the three-year pilot project, the  
3-39 agency may review the pilot project based on the annual reports the  
3-40 agency receives from the board of trustees of participating school  
3-41 districts. The agency may include the review of the pilot project  
3-42 in the comprehensive annual report required under Section 39.182  
3-43 that covers the 2006-2007 school year.

3-44 (b) This subchapter expires August 31, 2007.

3-45 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3-46 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3-47 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3-48 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3-49 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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