

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 840

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to professional development institutes for public school
3 teachers and paraprofessionals regarding education of students
4 with disabilities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 21.461 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.461. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES REGARDING
9 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. (a) The commissioner
10 shall develop and make available professional development
11 institutes for teachers and paraprofessionals relating to
12 research-based instructional services for students with
13 disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders.

14 (b) A professional development institute developed under
15 this section must address:

16 (1) disability-specific information necessary to
17 enable a teacher or paraprofessional to work effectively in the
18 classroom with students with disabilities;

19 (2) instructional techniques proven by scientifically
20 based research to be effective in teaching the curriculum required
21 under Section 28.002 to students with disabilities; and

22 (3) appropriate management of behaviors related to a
23 student's disability that may affect the student's performance.

24 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selection of

1 teachers and paraprofessionals authorized to attend a professional
2 development institute developed under this section. The
3 commissioner must give priority to teachers and paraprofessionals
4 who have a significant level of professional contact with students
5 with autism spectrum disorders.

6 (d) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the
7 commissioner shall pay a stipend to each teacher or
8 paraprofessional who completes a professional development
9 institute developed under this section. The commissioner shall
10 determine the amount of the stipend paid under this subsection.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.