

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 840  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 23, 2007; March 7, 2007,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education;  
1-4 April 17, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,  
1-5 Nays 0; April 17, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to professional development institutes for public school  
1-9 teachers and paraprofessionals regarding education of students  
1-10 with disabilities.

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

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is  
1-13 amended by adding Section 21.461 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 21.461. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES REGARDING  
1-15 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. (a) The commissioner  
1-16 shall develop and make available professional development  
1-17 institutes for teachers and paraprofessionals relating to  
1-18 research-based instructional services for students with  
1-19 disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders.

1-20 (b) A professional development institute developed under  
1-21 this section must address:

1-22 (1) disability-specific information necessary to  
1-23 enable a teacher or paraprofessional to work effectively in the  
1-24 classroom with students with disabilities;

1-25 (2) instructional techniques proven by scientifically  
1-26 based research to be effective in teaching the curriculum required  
1-27 under Section 28.002 to students with disabilities; and

1-28 (3) appropriate management of behaviors related to a  
1-29 student's disability that may affect the student's performance.

1-30 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selection of  
1-31 teachers and paraprofessionals authorized to attend a professional  
1-32 development institute developed under this section. The  
1-33 commissioner must give priority to teachers and paraprofessionals  
1-34 who have a significant level of professional contact with students  
1-35 with autism spectrum disorders.

1-36 (d) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the  
1-37 commissioner shall pay a stipend to each teacher or  
1-38 paraprofessional who completes a professional development  
1-39 institute developed under this section. The commissioner shall  
1-40 determine the amount of the stipend paid under this subsection.

1-41 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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