

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1686

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the qualifications of personnel working with special  
3 education students.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 29.0052 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.0052. QUALIFICATIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
8 PERSONNEL. (a) A student who is enrolled in a special education  
9 program must have an education in which teachers and other  
10 professionals and paraprofessionals providing special education  
11 instruction understand the unique nature of the student's special  
12 needs.

13 (b) The commissioner by rule shall require each school  
14 district to include in each student's individualized education  
15 program any information or requirement determined necessary to  
16 ensure that each person providing special education instruction to  
17 the student is either proficient or certified, if applicable, in  
18 appropriate education methods.

19 (c) Each school district shall employ or provide access to  
20 appropriate qualified personnel with proficient skills, consistent  
21 with credentialing requirements, to fulfill the responsibilities  
22 of the school district.

23 (d) Regular and special personnel who work with students  
24 enrolled in a special education program must be adequately prepared

1 to provide educational instruction and services to those students.

2 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008  
3 school year.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.