

By: Shapiro, Lucio

S.B. No. 1697

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to improvement of reading skills of students enrolled in
3 public middle and junior high schools and use of certain federal
4 funds to provide accelerated instruction to certain public school
5 students.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 21.4551 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 21.4551. TEACHER READING ACADEMIES. (a) The
10 commissioner shall develop and make available reading academies for
11 teachers who provide instruction to students at the sixth through
12 eighth grade levels.

13 (b) A reading academy developed under this section must
14 include training in:

15 (1) for a teacher providing instruction in reading to
16 students at the seventh or eighth grade level:

17 (A) administration of the reading instrument
18 required by Section 28.006(c-1); and

19 (B) interpretation of the results of the reading
20 instrument required by Section 28.006(c-1) and strategies, based on
21 scientific research regarding effective reading instruction, for
22 long-term intensive intervention to target identified student
23 needs in word recognition, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension;

24 (2) for a teacher providing instruction in reading to

1 students at the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade level:

2 (A) strategies to be implemented in English
3 language arts and other subject areas for multisyllable word
4 reading, vocabulary development, and comprehension of expository
5 and narrative text;

6 (B) an adaptation framework that enables
7 teachers to respond to differing student strengths and needs,
8 including adaptations for students of limited English proficiency
9 or students receiving special education services under Subchapter
10 A, Chapter 29;

11 (C) collaborative strategies to increase active
12 student involvement and motivation to read; and

13 (D) other areas identified by the commissioner as
14 essential components of reading instruction; and

15 (3) for a teacher providing instruction in
16 mathematics, science, or social studies to students at the sixth,
17 seventh, or eighth grade level:

18 (A) strategies for incorporating reading
19 instruction into the curriculum for the subject area taught by the
20 teacher; and

21 (B) other areas identified by the commissioner.

22 (c) The commissioner by rule shall require a teacher to
23 attend a reading academy if the teacher provides instruction in
24 reading, mathematics, science, or social studies to students at the
25 sixth, seventh, or eighth grade level at a campus that is considered
26 academically unacceptable under Section 39.132 on the basis of
27 student performance on the reading assessment instrument

1 administered under Section 39.023(a) to students in any grade level
2 at the campus.

3 (d) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selection of
4 teachers, other than teachers described by Subsection (c), who may
5 attend a reading academy.

6 (e) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who
7 attends a reading academy is entitled to receive a stipend in the
8 amount determined by the commissioner. A stipend received under
9 this subsection is not considered in determining whether a district
10 is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section
11 21.402.

12 (f) On request of the commissioner, regional education
13 service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with
14 training and other activities relating to the development and
15 operation of reading academies.

16 (g) From funds appropriated for purposes of this section,
17 the commissioner shall conduct or contract with a public or private
18 entity to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the reading
19 academies developed under this section. The evaluation must:

20 (1) use qualitative, quantitative, and expert review
21 methodologies, including:

22 (A) direct observations;

23 (B) follow-up interviews and surveys with
24 participating teachers and administrators; and

25 (C) analysis of student data submitted through
26 the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) and
27 student assessment results to measure reading progress achieved by

1 students receiving instruction from teachers who attended a reading
2 academy in comparison to:

3 (i) reading progress achieved by those
4 students in preceding years; and

5 (ii) reading progress achieved by students
6 receiving instruction from teachers who did not attend a reading
7 academy; and

8 (2) include an analysis of financial data to assess
9 the cost-effectiveness of the reading academies.

10 (h) Not later than December 1, 2010, the commissioner shall
11 prepare and deliver to each member of the legislature a report
12 describing the results of the evaluation required by Subsection
13 (g). Subsection (g) and this subsection expire September 1, 2011.

14 SECTION 2. Section 28.006, Education Code, is amended by
15 adding Subsections (c-1) and (g-1) to read as follows:

16 (c-1) Each school district shall administer at the
17 beginning of the seventh grade a reading instrument adopted by the
18 commissioner to each student whose performance on the assessment
19 instrument in reading administered under Section 39.023(a) to the
20 student in grade six did not demonstrate reading proficiency, as
21 determined by the commissioner. The district shall administer the
22 reading instrument in accordance with the commissioner's
23 recommendations under Subsection (a)(1).

24 (g-1) A school district shall provide additional reading
25 instruction and intervention to each student in seventh grade
26 assessed under Subsection (c-1), as appropriate to improve the
27 student's reading skills in the relevant areas identified through

1 the assessment instrument. Training and support for activities
2 required by this subsection shall be provided by regional education
3 service centers and teacher reading academies established under
4 Section 21.4551.

5 SECTION 3. Section 28.0211, Education Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (l-1) and amending Subsection (m) to read as
7 follows:

8 (l-1) The commissioner may adopt rules requiring a school
9 district that receives federal funding under Title I of the
10 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section
11 6301 et seq.) to use that funding to provide supplemental
12 educational services under 20 U.S.C. Section 6316 in conjunction
13 with the accelerated instruction provided under this section,
14 provided that the rules may not conflict with federal law governing
15 the use of that funding.

16 (m) The commissioner shall certify, not later than July 1 of
17 each school year or as soon as practicable thereafter, whether
18 sufficient funds have been appropriated statewide for the purposes
19 of this section. A determination by the commissioner is final and
20 may not be appealed. For purposes of certification, the
21 commissioner may not consider Foundation School Program funds.
22 This section may be implemented only if the commissioner certifies
23 that sufficient funds have been appropriated during a school year
24 for administering the accelerated instruction programs specified
25 under this section, including teacher training for that purpose.

26 SECTION 4. Subsection (l), Section 28.0211, Education Code,
27 is repealed.

1 SECTION 5. For purposes of Subsection (c-1), Section
2 28.006, Education Code, as added by this Act, the commissioner of
3 education shall adopt the reading instrument developed by the Texas
4 Education Agency under the Adolescent Literacy Initiative
5 established in accordance with Rider 48b, page III-14, Chapter
6 1369, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005 (General
7 Appropriations Act).

8 SECTION 6. The commissioner of education shall establish
9 the teacher reading academies required by Section 21.4551,
10 Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than June 1, 2008,
11 and require teachers to begin attending the academies in accordance
12 with that section on the basis of student performance data for the
13 2007-2008 school year.

14 SECTION 7. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008
15 school year.

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