

1-1 By: Shapiro S.B. No. 1697  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2007; March 21, 2007, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 12, 2007,  
1-4 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0;  
1-5 April 12, 2007, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to improvement of reading skills of students enrolled in  
1-9 public middle and junior high schools and use of certain federal  
1-10 funds to provide accelerated instruction to certain public school  
1-11 students.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is  
1-14 amended by adding Section 21.4551 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 21.4551. TEACHER READING ACADEMIES. (a) The  
1-16 commissioner shall develop and make available reading academies for  
1-17 teachers who provide instruction to students at the sixth through  
1-18 eighth grade levels.

1-19 (b) A reading academy developed under this section must  
1-20 include training in:

1-21 (1) for a teacher providing instruction in reading to  
1-22 students at the seventh or eighth grade level:

1-23 (A) administration of the reading instrument  
1-24 required by Section 28.006(c-1); and

1-25 (B) interpretation of the results of the reading  
1-26 instrument required by Section 28.006(c-1) and strategies, based on  
1-27 scientific research regarding effective reading instruction, for  
1-28 long-term intensive intervention to target identified student  
1-29 needs in word recognition, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension;

1-30 (2) for a teacher providing instruction in reading to  
1-31 students at the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade level:

1-32 (A) strategies to be implemented in English  
1-33 language arts and other subject areas for multisyllable word  
1-34 reading, vocabulary development, and comprehension of expository  
1-35 and narrative text;

1-36 (B) an adaptation framework that enables  
1-37 teachers to respond to differing student strengths and needs,  
1-38 including adaptations for students of limited English proficiency  
1-39 or students receiving special education services under Subchapter  
1-40 A, Chapter 29;

1-41 (C) collaborative strategies to increase active  
1-42 student involvement and motivation to read; and

1-43 (D) other areas identified by the commissioner as  
1-44 essential components of reading instruction; and

1-45 (3) for a teacher providing instruction in  
1-46 mathematics, science, or social studies to students at the sixth,  
1-47 seventh, or eighth grade level:

1-48 (A) strategies for incorporating reading  
1-49 instruction into the curriculum for the subject area taught by the  
1-50 teacher; and

1-51 (B) other areas identified by the commissioner.

1-52 (c) The commissioner by rule shall require a teacher to  
1-53 attend a reading academy if the teacher provides instruction in  
1-54 reading, mathematics, science, or social studies to students at the  
1-55 sixth, seventh, or eighth grade level at a campus that is considered  
1-56 academically unacceptable under Section 39.132 on the basis of  
1-57 student performance on the reading assessment instrument  
1-58 administered under Section 39.023(a) to students in any grade level  
1-59 at the campus.

1-60 (d) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selection of  
1-61 teachers, other than teachers described by Subsection (c), who may  
1-62 attend a reading academy.

1-63 (e) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who  
1-64 attends a reading academy is entitled to receive a stipend in the

2-1 amount determined by the commissioner. A stipend received under  
 2-2 this subsection is not considered in determining whether a district  
 2-3 is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section  
 2-4 21.402.

2-5 (f) On request of the commissioner, regional education  
 2-6 service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with  
 2-7 training and other activities relating to the development and  
 2-8 operation of reading academies.

2-9 (g) From funds appropriated for purposes of this section,  
 2-10 the commissioner shall conduct or contract with a public or private  
 2-11 entity to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the reading  
 2-12 academies developed under this section. The evaluation must:

2-13 (1) use qualitative, quantitative, and expert review  
 2-14 methodologies, including:

2-15 (A) direct observations;

2-16 (B) follow-up interviews and surveys with  
 2-17 participating teachers and administrators; and

2-18 (C) analysis of student data submitted through  
 2-19 the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) and  
 2-20 student assessment results to measure reading progress achieved by  
 2-21 students receiving instruction from teachers who attended a reading  
 2-22 academy in comparison to:

2-23 (i) reading progress achieved by those  
 2-24 students in preceding years; and

2-25 (ii) reading progress achieved by students  
 2-26 receiving instruction from teachers who did not attend a reading  
 2-27 academy; and

2-28 (2) include an analysis of financial data to assess  
 2-29 the cost-effectiveness of the reading academies.

2-30 (h) Not later than December 1, 2010, the commissioner shall  
 2-31 prepare and deliver to each member of the legislature a report  
 2-32 describing the results of the evaluation required by Subsection  
 2-33 (g). Subsection (g) and this subsection expire September 1, 2011.

2-34 SECTION 2. Section 28.006, Education Code, is amended by  
 2-35 adding Subsections (c-1) and (g-1) to read as follows:

2-36 (c-1) Each school district shall administer at the  
 2-37 beginning of the seventh grade a reading instrument adopted by the  
 2-38 commissioner to each student whose performance on the assessment  
 2-39 instrument in reading administered under Section 39.023(a) to the  
 2-40 student in grade six did not demonstrate reading proficiency, as  
 2-41 determined by the commissioner. The district shall administer the  
 2-42 reading instrument in accordance with the commissioner's  
 2-43 recommendations under Subsection (a)(1).

2-44 (g-1) A school district shall provide additional reading  
 2-45 instruction and intervention to each student in seventh grade  
 2-46 assessed under Subsection (c-1), as appropriate to improve the  
 2-47 student's reading skills in the relevant areas identified through  
 2-48 the assessment instrument. Training and support for activities  
 2-49 required by this subsection shall be provided by regional education  
 2-50 service centers and teacher reading academies established under  
 2-51 Section 21.4551.

2-52 SECTION 3. Section 28.0211, Education Code, is amended by  
 2-53 adding Subsection (l-1) and amending Subsection (m) to read as  
 2-54 follows:

2-55 (l-1) The commissioner may adopt rules requiring a school  
 2-56 district that receives federal funding under Title I of the  
 2-57 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section  
 2-58 6301 et seq.) to use that funding to provide supplemental  
 2-59 educational services under 20 U.S.C. Section 6316 in conjunction  
 2-60 with the accelerated instruction provided under this section,  
 2-61 provided that the rules may not conflict with federal law governing  
 2-62 the use of that funding.

2-63 (m) The commissioner shall certify, not later than July 1 of  
 2-64 each school year or as soon as practicable thereafter, whether  
 2-65 sufficient funds have been appropriated statewide for the purposes  
 2-66 of this section. A determination by the commissioner is final and  
 2-67 may not be appealed. For purposes of certification, the  
 2-68 commissioner may not consider Foundation School Program funds.  
 2-69 This section may be implemented only if the commissioner certifies

3-1 that sufficient funds have been appropriated during a school year  
3-2 for administering the accelerated instruction programs specified  
3-3 under this section, including teacher training for that purpose.

3-4 SECTION 4. Subsection (l), Section 28.0211, Education Code,  
3-5 is repealed.

3-6 SECTION 5. For purposes of Subsection (c-1), Section  
3-7 28.006, Education Code, as added by this Act, the commissioner of  
3-8 education shall adopt the reading instrument developed by the Texas  
3-9 Education Agency under the Adolescent Literacy Initiative  
3-10 established in accordance with Rider 48b, page III-14, Chapter  
3-11 1369, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005 (General  
3-12 Appropriations Act).

3-13 SECTION 6. The commissioner of education shall establish  
3-14 the teacher reading academies required by Section 21.4551,  
3-15 Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than June 1, 2008,  
3-16 and require teachers to begin attending the academies in accordance  
3-17 with that section on the basis of student performance data for the  
3-18 2007-2008 school year.

3-19 SECTION 7. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008  
3-20 school year.

3-21 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3-22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3-23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3-24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3-25 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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