

By: Van de Putte, West

S.B. No. 451

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to staff development requirements in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.451, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(d) The staff development [~~may~~]:

(1) may include training in:

(A) technology;

(B) conflict resolution; and

(C) discipline strategies, including classroom management, district discipline policies, and the student code of conduct adopted under Section 37.001 and Chapter 37; and

(2) subject to Subsection (e), must include training based on scientifically based research, as defined by Section 9101, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 7801), that:

(A) relates to instruction of students with disabilities; and

(B) is designed for educators who work primarily outside the area of special education.

(e) A school district is required to provide the training described by Subsection (d)(2) to an educator who works primarily outside the area of special education only if the educator does not possess the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the

1 individualized education program developed for a student receiving
2 instruction from the educator. A district may determine the time
3 and place at which the training is delivered.

4 (f) In developing or maintaining the training required by
5 Subsection (d)(2), a school district must consult with persons with
6 expertise in research-based practices for students with
7 disabilities. Persons who may be consulted under this subsection
8 include colleges, universities, private and nonprofit
9 organizations, regional education service centers, qualified
10 district personnel, and any other persons identified as qualified
11 by the district. This subsection applies to all training required
12 by Subsection (d)(2), regardless of whether the training is
13 provided at the campus or district level.

14 (g) The staff development may ~~and~~
15 ~~(3)~~ include instruction as to what is permissible
16 under law, including opinions of the United States Supreme Court
17 and guidance from the United States Department of Education,
18 regarding prayer in public school.

19 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010
20 school year.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.