

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 1460

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to professional development academies designed for public school teachers who provide instruction to certain students of limited English proficiency.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.4553 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.4553. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMIES FOR TEACHERS OF CERTAIN STUDENTS OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.

(a) The commissioner shall design, establish, and make available professional development academies for teachers who provide instruction to students of limited English proficiency at the seventh grade level or above.

(b) A professional development academy established under this section must be designed to include training for teachers in research-based practices for:

(1) improving general English language development in students of limited English proficiency;

(2) teaching students of limited English proficiency at the seventh grade level or above the English language, including specific vocabulary, as necessary for the students to understand and succeed academically in reading and other English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies; and

(3) improving access to learning by students of

1 limited English proficiency.

2 (c) The commissioner by rule shall require a teacher for  
3 whom an area of deficiency related to the instruction of students of  
4 limited English proficiency has been identified under the  
5 recommended or locally developed appraisal system under Section  
6 21.352(c) to attend a professional development academy established  
7 under this section if the teacher provides instruction:

8 (1) at the seventh grade level or above;

9 (2) at a campus at which, as determined by the  
10 commissioner in accordance with commissioner rule, the academic  
11 performance of students of limited English proficiency needs  
12 improvement; and

13 (3) in a bilingual education or special language  
14 program or to students of limited English proficiency in reading,  
15 English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies.

16 (d) The commissioner by rule shall adopt criteria for the  
17 selection of teachers, other than teachers described by Subsection  
18 (c), who may attend a professional development academy established  
19 under this section, giving priority to teachers providing  
20 instruction at the seventh grade level or above in a bilingual  
21 education or special language program or to students of limited  
22 English proficiency in reading, English language arts,  
23 mathematics, science, or social studies at campuses described by  
24 Subsection (c)(2).

25 (e) From funds appropriated for the purpose, a teacher who  
26 attends a professional development academy established under this  
27 section is entitled to receive a stipend in the amount determined by

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

4 (f) On request of the commissioner, regional education  
5 service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with  
6 activities related to the design, establishment, and operation of  
7 professional development academies under this section. The  
8 commissioner may seek additional assistance from other public and  
9 private providers.

10 (g) From funds appropriated for purposes of this section,  
11 the commissioner shall conduct or contract with a public or private  
12 entity to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the professional  
13 development academies established under this section. The  
14 evaluation must:

15 (1) use qualitative, quantitative, and expert review  
16 methodologies, including:

17 (A) direct observations;

18 (B) follow-up interviews and surveys with  
19 participating teachers and administrators; and

20 (C) analysis of student data submitted through  
21 the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) and  
22 student assessment results to measure academic progress achieved by  
23 students receiving instruction from teachers who have attended a  
24 professional development academy established under this section in  
25 comparison to:

26 (i) academic progress achieved by those  
27 students in preceding years; and

1                    (ii) academic progress achieved by students  
2 of limited English proficiency receiving instruction from teachers  
3 who have not attended a professional development academy; and

4                    (2) include an analysis of financial data to assess  
5 the cost-effectiveness of the professional development academies.

6                    (h) Not later than December 1, 2012, the commissioner shall  
7 prepare and deliver to each member of the legislature a report  
8 describing the results of the evaluation required by Subsection  
9 (g). Subsection (g) and this subsection expire September 1, 2013.

10                    SECTION 2. This Act does not make an appropriation. This  
11 Act takes effect only if a specific appropriation for the  
12 implementation of the Act is provided in a general appropriations  
13 act of the 81st Legislature.

14                    SECTION 3. Except as provided by Section 2 of this Act, this  
15 Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of  
16 all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39,  
17 Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the  
18 vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect  
19 September 1, 2009, except as provided by Section 2 of this Act.