

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 to
3 attend a professional development academy established under this
4 section if the teacher provides instruction:

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

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

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

13 (d) The commissioner by rule shall adopt criteria for the
14 selection of teachers, other than teachers described by Subsection
15 (c), who may attend a professional development academy established
16 under this section.

17 (e) From funds appropriated for the purpose, a teacher who
18 attends a professional development academy established under this
19 section is entitled to receive a stipend in the amount determined by
20 the commissioner. A stipend received under this subsection is not
21 considered in determining whether a district is paying the teacher
22 the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402.

23 (f) On request of the commissioner, regional education
24 service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with
25 activities related to the design, establishment, and operation of
26 professional development academies under this section. The
27 commissioner may seek additional assistance from other public and

1 private providers.

2 (g) From funds appropriated for purposes of this section,
3 the commissioner shall conduct or contract with a public or private
4 entity to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the professional
5 development academies established under this section. The
6 evaluation must:

7 (1) use qualitative, quantitative, and expert review
8 methodologies, including:

9 (A) direct observations;

10 (B) follow-up interviews and surveys with
11 participating teachers and administrators; and

12 (C) analysis of student data submitted through
13 the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) and
14 student assessment results to measure academic progress achieved by
15 students receiving instruction from teachers who have attended a
16 professional development academy established under this section in
17 comparison to:

18 (i) academic progress achieved by those
19 students in preceding years; and

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

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

25 (h) Not later than December 1, 2012, the commissioner shall
26 prepare and deliver to each member of the legislature a report
27 describing the results of the evaluation required by Subsection

1 (g). Subsection (g) and this subsection expire September 1, 2013.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.