

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 1576

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an algebra instruction grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.092 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.092. ALGEBRA INSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM. (a) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall establish a program under which grants are awarded to school districts to implement an algebra instruction program. From the funds appropriated for use under Section 28.0211, the commissioner may use not more than \$50 million for the grant program provided by this section.

(b) The commissioner shall develop a comprehensive intervention plan to assist school districts with a disproportionate number of students who fail to perform satisfactorily on the assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a)(1) in grades five through seven. The plan must be based on high-quality research.

(c) The commissioner shall establish application criteria for receiving a grant under this section. The criteria must require a school district that applies for a grant to submit a local intervention plan that meets the standards adopted by the commissioner. In awarding grants under this section, the commissioner shall give preference to districts with the lowest

1 rate of satisfactory performance on assessment instruments  
2 administered under Section 39.023(a)(1) in grades five through  
3 seven.

4 (d) A grant under this section must:

5 (1) support sustained improvement in the school  
6 district's pre-algebra mathematics instruction in grades six  
7 through eight; and

8 (2) target students who will be administered the  
9 Algebra I end-of-course assessment instrument beginning in the  
10 2011-2012 school year.

11 (e) A grant awarded under this section may be used for  
12 providing:

13 (1) training and payment of state intervention coaches  
14 to assist school districts in implementing the grant;

15 (2) training and instructional materials in  
16 pre-algebra skills in grades five through seven;

17 (3) professional development of mathematics teachers  
18 assigned to grades five through seven;

19 (4) flexibility in the school day for instruction;

20 (5) instructional services; and

21 (6) technology as part of instructional activities.

22 (f) The commissioner may condition a grant on the  
23 implementation of the comprehensive intervention plan and may  
24 withhold or recover any funds not spent as provided by the plan  
25 approved under Subsection (b). A decision of the commissioner  
26 under this subsection is final and may not be appealed.

27 (g) The commissioner may require a school district to make

1 financial and other commitments as part of a grant application and  
2 to continue those commitments for not more than two school years  
3 after the final school year for which the grant applies.

4 (h) The commissioner shall:

5 (1) establish guidelines for implementing the grant  
6 program; and

7 (2) adopt rules necessary to administer the grant  
8 program.

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