

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 2262

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the administration of mathematics, science, and  
3 technology teacher preparation academies at institutions of higher  
4 education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 21.462, Education Code, is transferred  
7 to Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, redesignated as  
8 Section 61.0766, Education Code, and amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 61.0766 [~~21.462~~]. MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND  
10 TECHNOLOGY TEACHER PREPARATION ACADEMIES. (a) From funds  
11 appropriated for that purpose, the board [~~Texas Higher Education~~  
12 ~~Coordinating Board~~] shall establish academies at institutions of  
13 higher education to improve the instructional skills of teachers  
14 certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, and train students  
15 enrolled in a teacher preparation program to perform at the highest  
16 levels in mathematics, science, and technology. The  
17 [~~coordinating~~] board may adopt rules as necessary to administer  
18 this section.

19 (b) Before an institution of higher education establishes  
20 an academy under this section, the institution must apply through a  
21 competitive process, as determined by the board [~~Texas Higher~~  
22 ~~Education Coordinating Board~~], and meet any requirements  
23 established by the [~~coordinating~~] board for designation as an  
24 academy under this section and continued funding. The

1 institution of higher education must have a teacher preparation  
2 program approved by the State Board for Educator Certification or  
3 be affiliated with a program approved by the State Board for  
4 Educator Certification [~~board~~].

5 (c) A participant in an academy program must be:

6 (1) an experienced teacher who:

7 (A) is recommended by a school district; and

8 (B) has at least two [~~five~~] years experience  
9 teaching mathematics, science, or technology in assignments for  
10 which the teacher met all certification requirements; or

11 (2) a teacher preparation program candidate who has or  
12 will graduate with a degree in mathematics, science, or technology.

13 (d) An academy program shall:

14 (1) offer a masters-level degree as part of the  
15 program on a schedule that allows a teacher participant to complete  
16 the program and degree while employed as a teacher;

17 (2) coordinate with the mathematics, science, and  
18 technology departments of the institution of higher education  
19 operating the program to facilitate the ability of:

20 (A) academy participants to take advanced  
21 courses and qualify for degrees; and

22 (B) teacher preparation program candidates  
23 pursuing mathematics, science, or technology degrees to  
24 participate in academy programs;

25 (3) integrate advanced subject-matter coursework with  
26 instructional methodology and curriculum delivery; and

27 (4) focus on strengthening instructional skills.

1 (e) An academy program may:

2 (1) provide financial assistance for the purpose of  
3 allowing participants to complete the program and obtain a master  
4 teacher certificate under Section 21.0482, 21.0483, or 21.0484;

5 (2) include programs in leadership skills to develop  
6 training, mentoring, and coaching skills;

7 (3) deliver coursework electronically for some or all  
8 of the program; and

9 (4) provide for ongoing professional development and  
10 coordination with specific public school instructional programs.

11 SECTION 2. Section 39.363, Education Code, is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 Sec. 39.363. FUNDING FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS. (a) From funds  
14 appropriated, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
15 allocate \$8.75 million each year to establish mathematics, science,  
16 and technology teacher preparation academies under Section 61.0766  
17 [~~21.462~~] and implement and administer the program under Section  
18 29.098.

19 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
20 establish mathematics, science, and technology teacher preparation  
21 academies under Section 61.0766 [~~21.462~~] and implement and  
22 administer the program under Section 29.098 in a manner consistent  
23 with the goals of this subchapter and the goals in "Closing the  
24 Gaps," the state's master plan for higher education.

25 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 39.365, Education Code,  
26 is amended to read as follows:

27 (b) Not later than March 1 and September 1 of each year, the

1 commissioner of education shall prepare and deliver a progress  
2 report to the presiding officers of the standing committees of each  
3 house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over public  
4 education, the Legislative Budget Board, and the Governor's Office  
5 of Policy and Planning on:

6 (1) the implementation of Sections 7.031, 21.4511,  
7 21.4541, [~~21.462~~] 28.008(d-1), 28.0212(d), 29.095-29.098, 29.911,  
8 29.917-29.919, and 39.115 and this subchapter;

9 (2) the programs supported by grants approved under  
10 this subchapter; and

11 (3) the alignment of grants and programs to the  
12 strategic plan adopted under Section 39.357.

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