

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 87

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to professional development institutes regarding
3 education of students with disabilities to serve as a resource for
4 public school teachers and paraprofessionals.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 21.460 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.460. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES REGARDING
9 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. (a) The commissioner
10 shall develop and make available professional development
11 institutes for teachers and paraprofessionals relating to
12 research-based instructional services for students with
13 disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders.

14 (b) A professional development institute developed under
15 this section must address:

16 (1) disability-specific information necessary to
17 enable a teacher or paraprofessional to work effectively in the
18 classroom with students with disabilities;

19 (2) instructional techniques proven by scientifically
20 based research, as defined by Section 9101, No Child Left Behind Act
21 of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 7801), to be effective in teaching the
22 curriculum required under Section 28.002 to students with
23 disabilities; and

24 (3) appropriate management of behaviors related to a

1 student's disability that may affect the student's performance.

2 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selection of
3 teachers and paraprofessionals authorized to attend a professional
4 development institute developed under this section. The
5 commissioner must give priority to teachers and paraprofessionals
6 who have a significant level of professional contact with students
7 with autism spectrum disorders.

8 (d) From funds appropriated for the purpose, as well as
9 other available sources, the commissioner shall pay a stipend to
10 each teacher or paraprofessional who completes a professional
11 development institute developed under this section. The
12 commissioner shall determine the amount of the stipend paid under
13 this subsection.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.