

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 866

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the education of public school students with dyslexia,
3 the education and training of educators who teach students with
4 dyslexia, and the assessment of students with dyslexia attending an
5 institution of higher education.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 21.044, Education Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 21.044. EDUCATOR PREPARATION. (a) The board shall
10 propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must
11 accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter
12 an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum
13 academic qualifications required for a certificate.

14 (b) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate
15 specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a
16 bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as
17 part of the curriculum for that degree, instruction in detection
18 and education of students with dyslexia.

19 (c) The instruction under Subsection (b) must:

20 (1) be developed by a panel of experts in the diagnosis
21 and treatment of dyslexia who are:

22 (A) employed by institutions of higher
23 education; and

24 (B) approved by the board; and

1 (2) include information on:

2 (A) characteristics of dyslexia;

3 (B) identification of dyslexia; and

4 (C) effective, multisensory strategies for
5 teaching students with dyslexia.

6 SECTION 2. Section 21.054, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

8 (b) Continuing education requirements for an educator who
9 teaches students with dyslexia must include training regarding new
10 research and practices in educating students with dyslexia.

11 (c) The training required under Subsection (b) may be
12 offered in an online course.

13 SECTION 3. Section 38.003, Education Code, is amended by
14 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to
15 read as follows:

16 (a) Students enrolling in public schools in this state,
17 regardless of the grade level at which they enroll, shall be tested
18 for dyslexia and related disorders at appropriate times in
19 accordance with a program approved by the State Board of Education.

20 (b) In accordance with the program approved by the State
21 Board of Education, the board of trustees of each school district
22 shall provide for the treatment of any student determined to have
23 dyslexia or a related disorder, regardless of the grade level of the
24 student.

25 (b-1) Unless otherwise provided by law, a student
26 determined to have dyslexia during testing under Subsection (a) or
27 accommodated because of dyslexia may not be retested for dyslexia

1 for the purpose of reassessing the student's need for
2 accommodations until the district reevaluates the information
3 obtained from previous testing of the student.

4 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is
5 amended by adding Sections 38.0031 and 38.0032 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 38.0031. DYSLEXIA INFORMATION. A school district
7 shall provide the parent or guardian of each student attending
8 kindergarten in the district with information describing
9 characteristics of and effective treatment for dyslexia.

10 Sec. 38.0032. CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY PLAN FOR STUDENTS WITH
11 DYSLEXIA. (a) The agency shall develop a plan for integrating
12 technology into the classroom to help accommodate students with
13 dyslexia. The plan must:

14 (1) determine the classroom technologies that are
15 useful and practical in assisting public schools in accommodating
16 students with dyslexia, considering budget constraints of school
17 districts; and

18 (2) develop a strategy for providing those effective
19 technologies to students.

20 (b) The agency shall provide the plan and information about
21 the availability and benefits of the technologies identified under
22 Subsection (a)(1) to school districts.

23 (c) The commissioner shall adopt rules requiring each
24 school district to provide the plan adopted under this section and
25 the information described by Subsection (b) to:

26 (1) educators in the district who teach students with
27 dyslexia; and

1 (2) students with dyslexia enrolled in the district.

2 SECTION 5. Section 42.006, Education Code, is amended by
3 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

4 (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules to ensure that,
5 through the Public Education Information Management System, the
6 agency collects and maintains data regarding the number of students
7 with dyslexia enrolled in each school district or open-enrollment
8 charter school.

9 SECTION 6. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
10 amended by adding Section 51.9701 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 51.9701. ASSESSMENT FOR DYSLEXIA. Unless otherwise
12 provided by law, an institution of higher education as defined by
13 Section 61.003 may not reassess a student determined to have
14 dyslexia for the purpose of assessing the student's need for
15 accommodations until the institution of higher education
16 reevaluates the information obtained from previous assessments of
17 the student.

18 SECTION 7. (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and
19 (c) of this section, this Act applies beginning with the 2011-2012
20 school year.

21 (b) Section 21.044(b), Education Code, as added by this Act,
22 applies beginning with persons who commence enrollment in an
23 institution of higher education during the 2011-2012 academic year.

24 (c) Section 42.006(e), Education Code, as added by this Act,
25 applies beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

26 (d) Section 51.9701, Education Code, as added by this Act,
27 applies beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year.

1 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.