

By: Strama

H.B. No. 742

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program for certain school districts to provide summer instruction primarily for students who are educationally disadvantaged and summer teaching opportunities for high-performing, new, and student teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.091 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.091. GRANT PROGRAM FOR DISTRICTS THAT HAVE HIGH ENROLLMENT OF EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS AND THAT PROVIDE SUMMER INSTRUCTION. (a) In this section:

(1) "New teacher" means a teacher who:

(A) will be teaching for the first time during the next school year; or

(B) first began teaching:

(i) during the preceding two years; or

(ii) in the school district in which the teacher is currently employed during the preceding year.

(2) "Program" means the grant program for school districts to provide summer instruction primarily for students who are educationally disadvantaged, as established under this section.

(b) The commissioner shall establish and administer a competitive program to provide grants to not more than 10 school

1 districts to use in providing instructional programs to students in  
2 prekindergarten through eighth grade during the period in which  
3 school is recessed for the summer. The program shall be designed to:

4 (1) encourage participation in the program by a  
5 district's most educationally disadvantaged students;

6 (2) close the academic achievement gap between  
7 students who are educationally disadvantaged and students who are  
8 not educationally disadvantaged;

9 (3) ensure that during the period in which school is  
10 recessed for the summer, students participating in the program  
11 retain knowledge and skills learned during the school year and  
12 continue learning;

13 (4) provide apprenticeship, mentorship, and other  
14 professional development opportunities for new teachers and  
15 student teachers; and

16 (5) add to the compensation of a district's highest  
17 performing teachers by providing those teachers with summer  
18 employment teaching students, new teachers, and student teachers.

19 (c) To be eligible to participate in the program, a school  
20 district must:

21 (1) have an enrollment of students who are  
22 educationally disadvantaged that is greater than 50 percent of  
23 total district enrollment;

24 (2) apply to the commissioner in the manner and within  
25 the time prescribed by commissioner rule; and

26 (3) provide as part of the application materials a  
27 plan that is designed to achieve the purposes described by

1 Subsections (b)(1) through (5).

2 (d) In selecting from among eligible school districts to  
3 participate in the program, the commissioner shall select those  
4 districts that provide plans under Subsection (c)(3) that are the  
5 most innovative and represent a variety of approaches so that the  
6 effectiveness of various plans can be compared and evaluated.

7 (e) A grant awarded under this section may be funded only  
8 with money appropriated for the program and any gifts, grants, or  
9 donations made to the agency that may be used for and that the  
10 commissioner applies to funding the program. The commissioner, in  
11 accordance with commissioner rule and based on the amount available  
12 for the program, shall determine the amount of each grant awarded  
13 under this section. A school district awarded a grant under this  
14 section may use the grant only for implementing and administering a  
15 plan as described by Subsection (c)(3), including providing  
16 compensation to teachers in accordance with Subsection (b)(5) and  
17 commissioner rule.

18 (f) Each school district participating in the program  
19 shall, in the manner and within the time prescribed by commissioner  
20 rule, provide to the agency an annual written report that includes:

21 (1) a detailed description of the district's plan, as  
22 implemented;

23 (2) the number and grade levels of participating  
24 students;

25 (3) demographic information for participating  
26 students, including the percentage of students of each applicable  
27 race and ethnicity, the percentage of educationally disadvantaged

1 students, the percentage of students of limited English proficiency  
2 as defined by Section 29.052, the percentage of students enrolled  
3 in a school district special education program under Subchapter A,  
4 and the percentage of students enrolled in a district bilingual  
5 education program under Subchapter B;

6 (4) school attendance rates for participating  
7 students, before, during, and after program participation, as  
8 applicable;

9 (5) specific information that demonstrates whether  
10 the purposes described by Subsections (b)(2) and (3) have been  
11 achieved, including the results of assessment instruments  
12 administered under Section 39.023 for participating students,  
13 before, during, and after program participation, as applicable;

14 (6) aggregate results of assessment instruments  
15 administered under Section 39.023 for students of participating  
16 classroom teachers, new teachers, and student teachers, before,  
17 during, and after program participation by the students, as  
18 applicable;

19 (7) information regarding the manner in which teachers  
20 are selected for participation in the program and the manner in  
21 which teachers are compensated for their participation;

22 (8) statistical information for participating  
23 classroom teachers, new teachers, and student teachers, including  
24 the number of years employed in the teaching profession, the number  
25 of years teaching in the district in which the program is provided,  
26 the category and class of educator certification held, the highest  
27 level of academic degree earned, race, ethnicity, and gender;

1           (9) information regarding whether:

2                   (A) the program is provided on a full-day or  
3 half-day basis;

4                   (B) the program is voluntary or mandatory for  
5 educationally disadvantaged students;

6                   (C) the district has partnered with an outside  
7 provider to provide any supplemental service;

8                   (D) the district provides transportation to  
9 participating students; and

10                   (E) the district offers the program to students  
11 who are not educationally disadvantaged and, if so, under what  
12 circumstances;

13           (10) information on retention in the teaching  
14 profession of the participating teachers, including new teachers  
15 and student teachers; and

16           (11) any other information required by commissioner  
17 rule.

18           (g) The agency shall contract with an experienced and  
19 recognized third-party program evaluator to determine and prepare a  
20 report regarding the effectiveness of the program. The evaluator's  
21 report must include the evaluator's best effort to project the cost  
22 and academic effects of implementing the best practices of the  
23 program in school districts throughout this state and must describe  
24 the effectiveness of the program in:

25                   (1) improving academic performance among  
26 participating students;

27                   (2) improving the professional development and

1 performance of new teachers; and

2 (3) rewarding and retaining the highest performing  
3 teachers.

4 (h) Not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year,  
5 the agency shall submit to each member of the legislature a report  
6 specifically describing the results of the program. The report may  
7 be in the form of a summary of the information required under  
8 Subsections (f) and (g).

9 (i) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to  
10 administer this section.

11 SECTION 2. The commissioner of education shall establish  
12 the grant program under Section 29.091, Education Code, as added by  
13 this Act, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.