

By: King of Hemphill

H.B. No. 1600

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a grant program to assist school
3 districts in developing or implementing innovative blended
4 learning initiatives.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 29.912 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 29.912. BLENDED LEARNING INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

9 (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Blended learning" means learning in an
11 environment in which classroom instruction is supplemented with
12 lectures, exercises, and tutorials that students view online at
13 their own pace, either in the classroom or at home.

14 (2) "Individualized learning" is a mastery-based
15 system of learning in which students advance in their lessons based
16 on demonstrated proficiency instead of amount of time spent in the
17 classroom.

18 (b) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the
19 commissioner by rule shall establish an innovation grant program
20 under which participating school districts receive grants to
21 develop or implement blended learning initiatives to improve
22 student learning in the classroom.

23 (c) A school district that receives a grant under this
24 section may use grant funds to:

1 (1) implement a blended learning initiative developed
2 by the district;

3 (2) develop new approaches for blended learning,
4 including individualized learning;

5 (3) convert traditional learning models to blended
6 learning models; or

7 (4) pursue any combination of the activities specified
8 in Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).

9 (d) The commissioner's rules adopted under this section
10 must:

11 (1) require a school district, in cooperation with
12 agency staff, to establish a timeline, goals, and accountability
13 measures for a project to be developed or implemented using grant
14 funds; and

15 (2) encourage a school district to form partnerships
16 with private sector technology infrastructure providers to achieve
17 the benefit of current private sector expertise and technological
18 capabilities.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.