

By: Farney

H.B. No. 2609

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to providing training academies for public school teachers  
3 who provide mathematics instruction to students in kindergarten  
4 through grade three.

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 21.4553 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.4553. TEACHER MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMIES.

9 (a) The commissioner shall develop and make available mathematics  
10 achievement academies for teachers who provide mathematics  
11 instruction to students at the kindergarten or first, second, or  
12 third grade level.

13 (b) A mathematics achievement academy developed under this  
14 section must include training in effective and systematic  
15 instructional practices in mathematics, including measurement,  
16 problem solving, and analyzing and describing geometric shapes,  
17 figures, and patterns.

18 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selecting  
19 teachers who may attend a mathematics achievement academy. In  
20 adopting selection criteria under this subsection, the  
21 commissioner shall require granting a priority to teachers employed  
22 by school districts in which 50 percent or more of the students  
23 enrolled are educationally disadvantaged.

24 (d) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who

1 attends a mathematics achievement academy is entitled to receive a  
2 stipend in the amount determined by the commissioner. A stipend  
3 received under this subsection is not considered in determining  
4 whether a district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary  
5 under Section 21.402.

6 (e) On request of the commissioner, regional education  
7 service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with  
8 training and other activities relating to the development and  
9 operation of mathematics achievement academies.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.