

By: Huberty

H.B. No. 3494

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to educator preparation programs and teacher certification examinations.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.0441, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c) The overall grade point average of each incoming class admitted by an educator preparation program, including an alternative educator preparation program, may not be less than 3.00 on a four-point scale or the equivalent or a higher overall grade point average prescribed by the board. In computing the overall grade point average of an incoming class for purposes of this subsection, a program may:

(1) include the grade point average of each person in the incoming class based on all course work previously attempted by the person at a public or private institution of higher education;
or

(2) include the grade point average of each person in the incoming class based only on the last 60 semester credit hours attempted by the person at a public or private institution of higher education.

(d) A person seeking career and technology education certification is not included in determining the overall grade point average of an incoming class under Subsection (c).

1 SECTION 2. Section 21.045(b), Education Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (b) Each educator preparation program shall submit data
4 elements as required by the board for an annual performance report
5 to ensure access and equity. At a minimum, the annual report must
6 contain:

7 (1) the performance data from Subsection (a), other
8 than the data required for purposes of Subsection (a)(3), and the
9 following information, disaggregated by sex and ethnicity:

10 (A) [~~(1)~~] the number of candidates who apply;

11 (B) [~~(2)~~] the number of candidates admitted;

12 (C) [~~(3)~~] the number of candidates retained;

13 (D) [~~(4)~~] the number of candidates completing
14 the program;

15 (E) [~~(5)~~] the number of candidates employed as
16 beginning teachers [~~in the profession~~] after completing the
17 program;

18 (F) the amount of time required by candidates
19 employed as beginning teachers to progress from a probationary
20 teaching certificate to a standard teaching certificate;

21 (G) [~~(6)~~] the number of candidates retained in
22 the profession; and

23 (H) [~~(7)~~] any other information required by
24 federal law;

25 (2) the ratio of candidates employed as beginning
26 teachers to field supervisors; and

27 (3) any other information necessary to enable the

1 board to assess the effectiveness of the program on the basis of
2 teacher retention and success criteria adopted by the board.

3 SECTION 3. Section 21.048, Education Code, is amended by
4 amending Subsections (a-1) and (c-1) and adding Subsection (a-2) to
5 read as follows:

6 (a-1) The board may not require that more than 45 days
7 elapse before a person may retake an examination. A person may not
8 retake an examination more than four times, unless the board waives
9 the limitation for good cause as prescribed by the board.

10 (a-2) For purposes of the limitation imposed by Subsection
11 (a-1) on the number of administrations of an examination, a person
12 who initially took an examination before September 1, 2015, may
13 retake the examination up to four times after that date, regardless
14 of the number of times that the person attempted to perform
15 satisfactorily on the examination before that date. This
16 subsection expires September 1, 2018.

17 (c-1) The results of an examination administered under this
18 section are confidential and are not subject to disclosure under
19 Chapter 552, Government Code, unless[+

20 [~~1~~] the disclosure is regarding notification to a
21 parent of the assignment of an uncertified teacher to a classroom as
22 required by Section 21.057[~~+~~ or

23 [~~2~~] ~~the educator has failed the examination more than~~
24 ~~five times].~~

25 SECTION 4. Effective September 1, 2016, Section 21.051,
26 Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding
27 Subsections (b-1) and (c-1) to read as follows:

1 (b) Before a school district may employ a candidate for
2 certification as a teacher of record, the candidate must complete
3 at least 30 [~~15~~] hours of field-based experience in which the
4 candidate is actively engaged in instructional or educational
5 activities in the classroom under supervision at:

6 (1) a public school campus accredited or approved for
7 the purpose by the agency; or

8 (2) a private school recognized or approved for the
9 purpose by the agency.

10 (b-1) The hours of field-based experience required by
11 Subsection (b) may not be provided through use of electronic
12 transmission or other video- or technology-based method.

13 (c-1) Subsections (b) and (b-1), as amended and added by
14 ___B. ___, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015,
15 apply only to an initial certification issued on or after September
16 1, 2016. Those provisions do not affect:

17 (1) the validity of a certification issued before
18 September 1, 2016; or

19 (2) the eligibility of a person who holds a
20 certification issued before September 1, 2016, to obtain a
21 subsequent renewal of the certification in accordance with board
22 rule.

23 SECTION 5. Not later than January 1, 2016, the State Board
24 for Educator Certification shall develop criteria for evaluation of
25 educator preparation programs based on teacher retention and
26 success as required by Section [21.045\(b\)\(3\)](#), Education Code, as
27 added by this Act. The State Board for Educator Certification shall

1 consult with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in
2 developing the criteria, and the Texas Higher Education
3 Coordinating Board shall participate and provide recommendations
4 regarding the criteria.

5 SECTION 6. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.