

By: Seliger, West

S.B. No. 892

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 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(a) Rules of the board proposed under this subchapter must provide that a person, other than a person seeking career and technology education certification, is not eligible for admission to an educator preparation program, including an alternative educator preparation program, unless the person:

(1) except as provided by Subsection (b), satisfies the following minimum grade point average requirements [~~prescribed by the board, not to exceed the following~~]:

(A) an overall grade point average of at least 2.50 [~~2.75~~] on a four-point scale or the equivalent on any course work previously attempted at a public or private institution of higher education; or

(B) a grade point average of at least 2.50 [~~2.75~~] on a four-point scale or the equivalent for the last 60 semester credit hours attempted at a public or private institution of higher education; and

(2) if the person is seeking initial certification:

1 (A) has successfully completed at least:

2 (i) 15 semester credit hours in the
3 subject-specific content area in which the person is seeking
4 certification, if the person is seeking certification to teach
5 mathematics or science at or above grade level seven; or

6 (ii) 12 semester credit hours in the
7 subject-specific content area in which the person is seeking
8 certification, if the person is not seeking certification to teach
9 mathematics or science at or above grade level seven; or

10 (B) has achieved a satisfactory level of
11 performance on a content certification examination, which may be a
12 content certification examination administered by a vendor
13 approved by the commissioner for purposes of administering such an
14 examination for the year for which the person is applying for
15 admission to the program.

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

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

27 (2) include the grade point average of each person in

1 the incoming class based only on the last 60 semester credit hours
2 attempted by the person at a public or private institution of higher
3 education.

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

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

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

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

16 (A) ~~(1)~~ the number of candidates who apply;

17 (B) ~~(2)~~ the number of candidates admitted;

18 (C) ~~(3)~~ the number of candidates retained;

19 (D) ~~(4)~~ the number of candidates completing
20 the program;

21 (E) ~~(5)~~ the number of candidates employed as
22 beginning teachers under standard teaching certificates by not
23 later than the first anniversary of ~~[in the profession after]~~
24 completing the program;

25 (F) the amount of time required by candidates
26 employed as beginning teachers under probationary teaching
27 certificates to be issued standard teaching certificates;

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

3 (H) [~~(7)~~] any other information required by
4 federal law;

5 (2) the ratio of field supervisors to candidates
6 completing student teaching, clinical teaching, or an internship;
7 and

8 (3) any other information necessary to enable the
9 board to assess the effectiveness of the program on the basis of
10 teacher retention and success criteria adopted by the board.

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

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

18 (a-2) For purposes of the limitation imposed by Subsection
19 (a-1) on the number of administrations of an examination, a person
20 who initially took an examination before September 1, 2015, may
21 retake the examination up to four times after that date, regardless
22 of the number of times that the person attempted to perform
23 satisfactorily on the examination before that date. This
24 subsection expires September 1, 2018.

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

1 ~~[(1)]~~ the disclosure is regarding notification to a
2 parent of the assignment of an uncertified teacher to a classroom as
3 required by Section 21.057~~[, or~~

4 ~~[(2) the educator has failed the examination more than~~
5 ~~five times]~~.

6 SECTION 4. Effective September 1, 2016, Section 21.051,
7 Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding
8 Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (c-1) to read as follows:

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

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

16 (2) a private school recognized or approved for the
17 purpose by the agency.

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

21 (b-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a candidate may be
22 employed by a school district as a teacher of record before
23 completing the field-based experience required by that subsection
24 if the candidate:

25 (1) is not admitted by an educator preparation program
26 before June 15;

27 (2) is employed by the district on or after June 15 or

1 after the district's school year begins; and

2 (3) completes the required field-based experience not
3 later than the 90th day after the date the candidate receives a
4 teaching assignment.

5 (c-1) Subsections (b), (b-1), and (b-2), as amended and
6 added by S.B. 892, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session,
7 2015, apply only to an initial certification issued on or after
8 September 1, 2016. Those provisions do not affect:

9 (1) the validity of a certification issued before
10 September 1, 2016; or

11 (2) the eligibility of a person who holds a
12 certification issued before September 1, 2016, to obtain a
13 subsequent renewal of the certification in accordance with board
14 rule.

15 SECTION 5. Not later than January 1, 2016, the State Board
16 for Educator Certification shall develop criteria for evaluation of
17 educator preparation programs based on teacher retention and
18 success as required by Section 21.045(b)(3), Education Code, as
19 added by this Act. The State Board for Educator Certification shall
20 consult with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in
21 developing the criteria, and the Texas Higher Education
22 Coordinating Board shall participate and provide recommendations
23 regarding the criteria.

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