

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 925

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to providing training academies for public school teachers
3 who provide reading instruction to students in kindergarten through
4 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 21.4552 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.4552. TEACHER LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMIES. (a)

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

13 (b) A literacy achievement academy developed under this
14 section must include training in effective and systematic
15 instructional practices in reading, including phonemic awareness,
16 phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

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

23 (d) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who
24 attends a literacy achievement academy is entitled to receive a

1 stipend in the amount determined by the commissioner. A stipend
2 received under this subsection is not considered in determining
3 whether a district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary
4 under Section 21.402.

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

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