

By: Kolkhorst, West

S.B. No. 935

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a reading excellence team pilot program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0061 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0061. READING EXCELLENCE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) Using funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall establish a reading excellence team pilot program in accordance with this section.

(b) A school district is eligible to participate in the pilot program if, as determined by the commissioner, the district has low student performance on:

(1) a reading instrument administered in accordance with Section 28.006(c); or

(2) a third grade reading assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a).

(c) The pilot program must:

(1) establish reading excellence teams composed of reading instruction specialists;

(2) allow an eligible school district to request the assistance of a reading excellence team; and

(3) provide a reading excellence team to a requesting eligible school district to:

1           (A) review with the district the results of the  
2 assessments described under Subsection (b) to determine campuses  
3 and classrooms for kindergarten through third grade with the  
4 greatest need of assistance; and

5           (B) work with teachers on campuses and in  
6 classrooms identified under Paragraph (A) to provide training  
7 necessary to improve student reading outcomes.

8           (d) The commissioner shall adopt rules to administer this  
9 section, including rules establishing qualifications and criteria  
10 for selecting reading instruction specialists for a reading  
11 excellence team.

12           (e) This section expires September 1, 2021.

13           SECTION 2. The commissioner of education shall establish  
14 the pilot program under Section 28.0061, Education Code, as added  
15 by this Act, not later than September 1, 2016.

16           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.