

AN ACT

relating to creating an early childhood certification to teach students in prekindergarten through grade three.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.0489 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.0489. EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION. (a) To ensure that there are teachers with special training in early childhood education focusing on prekindergarten through grade three, the board shall establish an early childhood certificate.

(b) A person is not required to hold a certificate established under this section to be employed by a school district to provide instruction in prekindergarten through grade three.

(c) To be eligible for a certificate established under this section, a person must:

(1) either:

(A) satisfactorily complete the course work for that certificate in an educator preparation program, including a knowledge-based and skills-based course of instruction on early childhood education that includes:

(i) teaching methods for:

(a) using small group instructional formats that focus on building social, emotional, and academic skills;

1 (b) navigating multiple content
2 areas; and

3 (c) managing a classroom environment
4 in which small groups of students are working on different tasks;
5 and

6 (ii) strategies for teaching fundamental
7 academic skills, including reading, writing, and numeracy; or

8 (B) hold an early childhood through grade six
9 certificate issued under this subchapter and satisfactorily
10 complete a course of instruction described by Paragraph (A);

11 (2) perform satisfactorily on an early childhood
12 certificate examination prescribed by the board; and

13 (3) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the
14 board.

15 (d) The criteria for the course of instruction described by
16 Subsection (c)(1)(A) shall be developed by the board in
17 consultation with faculty members who provide instruction at
18 institutions of higher education in education preparation programs
19 for an early childhood through grade six certificate.

20 SECTION 2. The State Board for Educator Certification shall
21 propose rules:

22 (1) establishing requirements and prescribing an
23 examination for an early childhood certificate examination as
24 required by Section 21.0489, Education Code, as added by this Act;
25 and

26 (2) establishing standards to govern the approval and
27 renewal of approval of educator preparation programs for early

1 childhood certification.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2039 was passed by the House on May 3, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 120, Nays 26, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2039 was passed by the Senate on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 23, Nays 8.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor