

By: Bohac

H.B. No. 4064

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to staff development and continuing education
3 requirements for public school educators regarding digital
4 education methods.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 21.001, Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.001. DEFINITIONS [~~DEFINITION~~]. In this chapter:

9 (1) "Commissioner" [~~"commissioner"~~] includes a
10 person designated by the commissioner.

11 (2) "Digital learning" means any type of learning that
12 is facilitated by technology or instructional practice that makes
13 effective use of technology.

14 (3) "Digital literacy" means having the knowledge and
15 ability to use a range of technology tools for varied purposes. The
16 term includes the capacity to use, understand, and evaluate
17 technology for use in education settings.

18 SECTION 2. Section 21.044, Education Code, is amended by
19 adding Subsection (c-2) to read as follows:

20 (c-2) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate
21 specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a
22 bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as
23 part of the training required to obtain that certificate,
24 instruction in digital learning, including a digital literacy

1 evaluation followed by a prescribed digital learning curriculum.

2 The instruction required must:

3 (1) be aligned with the International Society for
4 Technology in Education's standards for teachers;

5 (2) provide effective, evidence-based strategies to
6 determine a person's degree of digital literacy; and

7 (3) include resources to address any deficiencies
8 identified by the digital literacy evaluation.

9 SECTION 3. Sections 21.054(d) and (e), Education Code, are
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (d) Continuing education requirements for a classroom
12 teacher must provide that not more than 25 percent of the training
13 required every five years include instruction regarding:

14 (1) collecting and analyzing information that will
15 improve effectiveness in the classroom;

16 (2) recognizing early warning indicators that a
17 student may be at risk of dropping out of school;

18 (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and
19 integrating technology into classroom instruction; and

20 (4) educating diverse student populations, including:

21 (A) students with disabilities, including mental
22 health disorders;

23 (B) students who are educationally
24 disadvantaged;

25 (C) students of limited English proficiency; and

26 (D) students at risk of dropping out of school.

27 (e) Continuing education requirements for a principal must

1 provide that not more than 25 percent of the training required every
2 five years include instruction regarding:

3 (1) effective and efficient management, including:
4 (A) collecting and analyzing information;
5 (B) making decisions and managing time; and
6 (C) supervising student discipline and managing
7 behavior;

8 (2) recognizing early warning indicators that a
9 student may be at risk of dropping out of school;

10 (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and
11 integrating technology into campus curriculum and instruction; and

12 (4) educating diverse student populations, including:
13 (A) students with disabilities, including mental
14 health disorders;

15 (B) students who are educationally
16 disadvantaged;

17 (C) students of limited English proficiency; and

18 (D) students at risk of dropping out of school.

19 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
20 amended by adding Section 21.0543 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 21.0543. CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT FOR INSTRUCTION
22 RELATED TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY. The board shall propose rules
23 allowing an educator to receive credit toward the educator's
24 continuing education requirements for completion of education
25 courses that:

26 (1) use technology to increase the educator's digital
27 literacy; and

1 (2) assist the educator in the use of digital
2 technology in learning activities that improve teaching,
3 assessment, and instructional practices.

4 SECTION 5. Section 21.451, Education Code, is amended by
5 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (d-3) to read as
6 follows:

7 (d) The staff development:

8 (1) may include training in:

9 (A) technology;

10 (B) conflict resolution;

11 (C) discipline strategies, including classroom
12 management, district discipline policies, and the student code of
13 conduct adopted under Section 37.001 and Chapter 37; ~~and~~

14 (D) preventing, identifying, responding to, and
15 reporting incidents of bullying; and

16 (E) digital learning;

17 (2) subject to Subsection (e) and to Section 21.3541
18 and rules adopted under that section, must include training that is
19 evidence-based [~~based on scientifically based research~~], as
20 defined by Section 8101, Every Student Succeeds Act [~~9101, No Child~~
21 ~~Left Behind Act of 2001~~] (20 U.S.C. Section 7801), that:

22 (A) relates to instruction of students with
23 disabilities; and

24 (B) is designed for educators who work primarily
25 outside the area of special education; and

26 (3) must include suicide prevention training that must
27 be provided:

1 (A) on an annual basis, as part of a new employee
2 orientation, to all new school district and open-enrollment charter
3 school educators; and

4 (B) to existing school district and
5 open-enrollment charter school educators on a schedule adopted by
6 the agency by rule.

7 (d-3) The digital learning training provided by Subsection
8 (d)(1)(E) must:

9 (1) discuss basic technology proficiency expectations
10 and methods to increase an educator's digital literacy; and

11 (2) assist an educator in the use of digital
12 technology in learning activities that improve teaching,
13 assessment, and instructional practices.

14 SECTION 6. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
15 school year.

16 SECTION 7. 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, 2017.