

By: Taylor of Galveston

S.B. No. 2050

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 21.044, Education Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subsection (c-2) to read as follows:

8 (c-2) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate  
9 specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a  
10 bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as  
11 part of the training required to obtain that certificate,  
12 instruction in digital learning, including a digital literacy  
13 evaluation followed by a prescribed digital learning curriculum.  
14 The instruction required must:

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

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

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

21 SECTION 2. Section 21.054, Education Code, is amended by  
22 amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsection (h) to read  
23 as follows:

24 (d) Continuing education requirements for a classroom

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

3 (1) collecting and analyzing information that will  
4 improve effectiveness in the classroom;

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

7 (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and  
8 integrating technology into classroom instruction; and

9 (4) educating diverse student populations, including:

10 (A) students with disabilities, including mental  
11 health disorders;

12 (B) students who are educationally  
13 disadvantaged;

14 (C) students of limited English proficiency; and

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

16 (e) Continuing education requirements for a principal must  
17 provide that not more than 25 percent of the training required every  
18 five years include instruction regarding:

19 (1) effective and efficient management, including:

20 (A) collecting and analyzing information;

21 (B) making decisions and managing time; and

22 (C) supervising student discipline and managing  
23 behavior;

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

26 (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and  
27 integrating technology into campus curriculum and instruction; and

1 (4) educating diverse student populations, including:

2 (A) students with disabilities, including mental  
3 health disorders;

4 (B) students who are educationally  
5 disadvantaged;

6 (C) students of limited English proficiency; and

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

8 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is  
9 amended by adding Section 21.0543 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 21.0543. CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT FOR INSTRUCTION  
11 RELATED TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY. (a) The board shall propose rules  
12 allowing an educator to receive credit toward the educator's  
13 continuing education requirements for completion of education  
14 courses that:

15 (1) use technology to increase the educator's digital  
16 literacy; and

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

20 SECTION 4. Section 21.451, Education Code, is amended by  
21 adding Subsection (b-1) and amending Subsection (d) to read as  
22 follows:

23 (b-1) The staff development described by Subsection  
24 (d)(1)(E) must:

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

27 (2) assist an educator in the use of digital

1 technology in learning activities that improve teaching,  
2 assessment, and instructional practices.

3 (d) The staff development:

4 (1) may include training in:

5 (A) technology;

6 (B) conflict resolution;

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

10 (D) preventing, identifying, responding to, and  
11 reporting incidents of bullying; and

12 (E) digital learning;

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

18 (A) relates to instruction of students with  
19 disabilities; and

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

22 (3) must include suicide prevention training that must  
23 be provided:

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

27 (B) to existing school district and

1 open-enrollment charter school educators on a schedule adopted by  
2 the agency by rule.

3 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018  
4 school year.

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