By:  Bernal H.B. No. 1453

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to updating requirements for special education training and the make up of the SBEC Board.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 21.033(a), Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (1) to read as follows:

(1)  four members must be teachers employed in public schools~~.~~, one of whom must be a teacher who is certified in special education with classroom experience;

SECTION 2.  Section 21.051, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g)  The board shall propose rules to establish a minimum requirement of field-based experience in which the candidate is actively engaged in instructional or educational activities to implement individualized education plans for students with disabilities.

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

(d-4)  The training on instruction for students with disabilities described in Subsection (d)(2) shall include:

(1)  basic knowledge of each disability category under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq.) and how each category can affect student learning and development;

(2)  proactive instructional planning techniques using a framework that

(A)  provides flexibility in the ways:

(i)  information is presented;

(ii)  students respond or demonstrate knowledge and skills; and

(iii)  students are engaged;

(B)  reduces barriers to instruction;

(C)  provides appropriate accommodations, supports, and challenges; and

(D)  maintains high achievement expectations for all students, including students with disabilities and students of limited English proficiency; and

(3)  evidence-based inclusive instructional practices, including:

(A)  general and special education collaborative and co-teaching models and approaches;

(B)  multi-tiered systems of support, including response to intervention strategies, classroom and school level data-based collaborative structures, and evidence-based strategies for intervention and progress monitoring systems in academic areas

(C)  classroom management techniques using evidence-based behavioral intervention strategies and supports;

(D)  appropriate adaptation strategies, including accommodations, modifications, and instruction in the use of assistive technology for instruction.

(d-5)  The training on instruction for students with disabilities described in Subsection (d)(2) must a minimum of four hours of instruction, delivered in person and be provided:

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

(2)  competency-based, interactive and experiential providing teachers the opportunity to improve their practice by integrating these skills through demonstration, observation, collaboration, fieldwork, and reflection in different instructional contexts; and

(3)  to existing school district and open-enrollment charter school educators, subject to Subsection (e), who are responsible for classroom implementation of a student's individualized education plan.

(d-6)  The training on instruction for students with disabilities described in Subsection (d)(2) is required to be completed once every five years upon initial completion of the training.

SECTION 4.  Section 8.051(d), Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (7) to read as follows:

(7)  assistance through responsive remote coaching for teachers in rural areas to guide teachers through specific issues in the delivery of instruction and services to students with disabilities offered as needed through existing agency infrastructure.

SECTION 5.  This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.