

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 1947

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state funding for the implementation of teacher excellence initiative programs by school districts.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.358 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.358. TEACHER EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE PROGRAM. (a)

In this section, "teacher excellence initiative program" means a program implemented by a school district for:

(1) evaluating the effectiveness of classroom teachers under a multi-measure system;

(2) encouraging highly effective classroom teachers to remain at or seek transfer to campuses with poor overall or domain performance ratings under Section 39.054; and

(3) awarding merit salary increases to classroom teachers based on the evaluation described by Subdivision (1) who are assigned to campuses described by Subdivision (2).

(b) A school district may submit a request to the commissioner for state funding under this section to assist the district in providing the merit salary increases.

(c) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall provide funding under this section in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner for that purpose. If funds are not available to provide funding to each school district that

1 submits a request under Subsection (b), the commissioner shall give  
2 priority to school districts with the highest proportion of  
3 educationally disadvantaged students.

4 (d) Funding received under this section may only be used by  
5 a school district to provide and sustain merit salary increases  
6 provided to classroom teachers under a teacher excellence  
7 initiative program.

8 (e) Rules adopted under Subsection (c) must require that a  
9 school district demonstrate improved campus performance in order to  
10 continue receiving merit salary increase funding for classroom  
11 teachers assigned to that campus.

12 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable, the commissioner of  
13 education shall adopt rules under Section 21.358, Education Code,  
14 as added by this Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.