

AN ACT

relating to the essential knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum and the establishment of a computer science strategic advisory committee to increase computer science instruction and participation in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-3) to read as follows:

(c-3) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the technology applications curriculum for kindergarten through grade eight, the State Board of Education shall adopt essential knowledge and skills that include coding, computer programming, computational thinking, and cybersecurity. The State Board of Education shall review and revise, as needed, the essential knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum every five years to ensure the curriculum:

(1) is relevant to student education; and

(2) aligns with current or emerging professions.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0181 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0181. COMPUTER SCIENCE STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) In this section, "advisory committee" means the computer science strategic advisory committee established under this section.

1 (b) The agency shall establish the computer science
2 strategic advisory committee to develop and provide
3 recommendations for increasing computer science instruction and
4 participation in public schools.

5 (c) The advisory committee is composed of at least 11
6 members. The members must include:

7 (1) two members appointed by the governor;

8 (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

9 (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house
10 of representatives;

11 (4) one member appointed by the chair of the senate
12 committee with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary
13 education;

14 (5) one member appointed by the chair of the senate
15 committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education;

16 (6) one member appointed by the chair of the house of
17 representatives committee with primary jurisdiction over primary
18 and secondary education;

19 (7) one member appointed by the chair of the house of
20 representatives committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
21 education;

22 (8) one member appointed by the chair of the State
23 Board of Education; and

24 (9) any other members added by the advisory committee
25 in a manner determined by the committee in the committee's
26 discretion.

27 (d) In appointing members to the advisory committee, the

1 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
2 representatives shall coordinate appointments to ensure that the
3 six individuals appointed to the advisory committee collectively by
4 those officers include:

5 (1) three educators who teach in a public school and
6 are certified in computer science;

7 (2) one parent or person standing in parental relation
8 to a student enrolled in a public school;

9 (3) one person employed in the technology industry;
10 and

11 (4) one faculty member of an institution of higher
12 education.

13 (e) The governor shall designate a member of the advisory
14 committee as the presiding officer of the advisory committee to
15 serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor.

16 (f) The advisory committee may hold public meetings.

17 (g) Members of the advisory committee are not entitled to
18 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual and
19 necessary expenses incurred in fulfilling committee duties.

20 (h) Staff members of the agency shall provide
21 administrative support for the advisory committee.

22 (i) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses
23 of the advisory committee shall be provided by appropriation to the
24 agency for that purpose.

25 (j) Not later than September 1, 2020, the advisory committee
26 shall submit to the governor and the legislature a report that
27 includes recommended changes to state law, including funding

1 proposals and timelines for the implementation of the recommended
2 changes. The report shall include recommendations that are intended
3 to:

4 (1) increase the number of certified computer science
5 teachers;

6 (2) increase the number of public high schools
7 offering computer science courses;

8 (3) increase the number of high school students
9 enrolled in computer science courses;

10 (4) encourage the enrollment of diverse student
11 populations in computer science courses; and

12 (5) expand computer science learning opportunities,
13 including computer programming, computer coding, cybersecurity,
14 and computational thinking, in public schools.

15 (k) The advisory committee is abolished and this section
16 expires January 1, 2021.

17 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
18 of this Act, the appropriate persons, as provided by Section
19 28.0181(c), Education Code, as added by this Act, shall appoint
20 members to the computer science strategic advisory committee.

21 SECTION 4. Not later than December 31, 2020, the State Board
22 of Education shall review and revise, as needed, the essential
23 knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum as
24 required by Section 28.002(c-3), Education Code, as added by this
25 Act.

26 SECTION 5. The State Board of Education is required to
27 implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature

1 appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the
2 legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
3 purpose, the board may, but is not required to, implement a
4 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that
5 purpose.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2984 was passed by the House on April 17, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 9, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2984 on May 24, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2984 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor