

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 3069

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting
3 computer science certification and professional development in
4 coding, technology applications, and computer science for public
5 school teachers.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 21.468 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 21.468. COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS
10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner
11 shall establish a professional development grant program to
12 encourage teachers to:

13 (1) obtain computer science certification; and

14 (2) continue professional development in coding,
15 computational thinking, and computer science education.

16 (b) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the
17 commissioner shall make grants to eligible providers that offer:

18 (1) professional development for elementary school
19 and middle and junior high school teachers to ensure teachers
20 maintain a working knowledge of current computer industry standard
21 tools and resources; and

22 (2) training for computer science certification for
23 teachers in accordance with certification requirements adopted by
24 the State Board for Educator Certification.

1 (c) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a
2 provider must:

3 (1) be an institution of higher education, regional
4 education service center, or school district or partnership of
5 multiple school districts or a nonprofit entity approved by the
6 commissioner that has demonstrated experience in providing
7 professional development through a statewide network; and

8 (2) meet eligibility standards established by
9 commissioner rule.

10 (d) An eligible provider receiving a grant under this
11 section must:

12 (1) provide the training or professional development
13 described by Subsection (b) and establish professional development
14 hubs in each education service center region;

15 (2) serve high-need campuses;

16 (3) have established partnerships with institution of
17 higher education faculty with expertise in computing and computer
18 science education; and

19 (4) develop partnerships with computer industry
20 professionals.

21 (e) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
22 implement this section.

23 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2019, the
24 commissioner of education shall establish the grant program
25 required under Section 21.468, Education Code, as added by this
26 Act.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.