

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 2180

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the essential knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum and the establishment of a computer science strategic advisory committee.

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 that 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.

(b) The agency shall establish the computer science

1 strategic advisory committee to develop and provide
2 recommendations for increasing computer science instruction and
3 participation in public schools.

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

6 (1) two members appointed by the governor;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (d) In appointing members to the advisory committee, the
27 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of

1 representatives shall coordinate appointments to ensure that the
2 six individuals appointed to the advisory committee collectively by
3 those officers include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 changes. The report shall include recommendations that are
2 intended to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 SECTION 3. Not later than December 31, 2020, the State Board
17 of Education shall review and revise, as needed, the essential
18 knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum as
19 required by Section 28.002(c-3), Education Code, as added by this
20 Act.

21 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date
22 of this Act, the appropriate persons, as provided by Section
23 28.0181(c), Education Code, as added by this Act, shall appoint
24 members to the computer science strategic advisory committee.

25 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.