

AN ACT

relating to creating a bilingual special education certification to teach students of limited English proficiency with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.04891 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.04891. BILINGUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION.

(a) In this section, "limited English proficiency" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.052.

(b) To ensure that there are teachers with special training in providing instruction to students of limited English proficiency with disabilities, the board shall establish a bilingual special education certificate.

(c) To be eligible for a certificate established under this section, a person must:

(1) satisfactorily complete the coursework for that certificate in an educator preparation program, including a skills-based course of instruction on providing instruction to students of limited English proficiency with disabilities, which must include instruction on:

(A) the foundations of bilingual, multicultural, and second language special education;

(B) providing individualized education programs for students of limited English proficiency with disabilities;

1 (C) providing assessment of students of limited
2 English proficiency with and without disabilities;

3 (D) developing teaching methods to recognize the
4 intellectual, developmental, and emotional needs of students in
5 dual language and transitional bilingual education settings;

6 (E) teaching fundamental academic skills,
7 including reading, writing, and mathematics, to students of limited
8 English proficiency; and

9 (F) creating partnerships with families and
10 school professionals;

11 (2) perform satisfactorily on a bilingual special
12 education certificate examination prescribed by the board; and

13 (3) satisfy any other requirements prescribed by the
14 board.

15 SECTION 2. The State Board for Educator Certification shall
16 propose rules:

17 (1) establishing requirements and prescribing an
18 examination for a bilingual special education certificate as
19 required by Section 21.04891, Education Code, as added by this Act;
20 and

21 (2) establishing standards to govern the approval and
22 renewal of approval of educator preparation programs for bilingual
23 special education certification.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2256 was passed by the House on May 6, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 113, Nays 30, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2256 on May 28, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 113, Nays 32, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2256 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor