88R19949 BDP-F

By:  Harris of Anderson H.B. No. 2729

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2729:

By:  Buckley C.S.H.B. No. 2729

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to teacher requirements for high quality prekindergarten programs.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 29.167, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (d) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:

(b)  Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), each [~~Each~~] teacher for a prekindergarten program class must:

(1)  be certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21; and

(2)  have one of the following additional qualifications:

(A)  a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or another early childhood education credential approved by the agency;

(B)  certification offered through a training center accredited by Association Montessori Internationale or through the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education;

(C)  at least eight years' experience of teaching in a nationally accredited child care program or a Texas Rising Star Program;

(D)  be employed as a prekindergarten teacher in a school district that has received approval from the commissioner for the district's prekindergarten-specific instructional training plan that the teacher uses in the teacher's prekindergarten classroom; or

(E)  an equivalent qualification.

(b-1)  Notwithstanding Subsection (b), each teacher for a prekindergarten class provided by an entity with which a school district contracts to provide a prekindergarten program must:

(1)  be supervised by a person who meets the requirements under Subsection (b); and

(2)  have one of the qualifications described by Subsection (b)(2).

(b-2)  A person who supervises a prekindergarten teacher as described by Subsection (b-1) may supervise multiple prekindergarten classes.

(d)  A school district or an entity with which the district contracts to provide a prekindergarten program must attempt to maintain an average ratio in any prekindergarten program class of not less than one qualified [~~certified~~] teacher or teacher's aide for each 11 students.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.