

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 2358

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Teacher Residency Partnership Program and a residency partnership allotment under the Foundation School Program.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER R. TEXAS TEACHER RESIDENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 21.901. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Board" means the State Board for Educator Certification.

(2) "Mentor teacher" means a classroom teacher who:

(A) meets the qualifications for assignment as a mentor under Section 21.458; and

(B) is employed by a school district or open-enrollment charter school participating in a partnership program under this subchapter and paired with a partnership resident at the district or school.

(3) "Partnership program" means a Texas Teacher Residency Partnership Program established at a school district or open-enrollment charter school in accordance with this subchapter.

(4) "Partnership resident" means a person enrolled in a qualified educator preparation program participating in a partnership program as a candidate for educator certification.

1           (5) "Qualified educator preparation program" means an  
2 educator preparation program approved by the board in accordance  
3 with rules proposed under Section 21.903.

4           Sec. 21.902. ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM. (a)  
5 The commissioner shall establish the Texas Teacher Residency  
6 Partnership Program to enable qualified educator preparation  
7 programs to form partnerships with school districts or  
8 open-enrollment charter schools to provide residency positions to  
9 partnership residents at the district or school.

10           (b) The partnership program must be designed to:

11           (1) allow partnership residents to receive  
12 field-based experience working with classroom teachers in  
13 prekindergarten through grade 12 classrooms; and

14           (2) gradually increase the amount of time a  
15 partnership resident spends engaging in instructional  
16 responsibilities, including observation, co-teaching, and  
17 lead-teaching responsibilities.

18           Sec. 21.903. QUALIFIED EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS. The  
19 board shall propose rules specifying the requirements for board  
20 approval of an educator preparation program as a qualified educator  
21 preparation program for purposes of this subchapter. The rules  
22 must require an educator preparation program to:

23           (1) use research-based best practices for recruiting  
24 and admitting candidates into the educator preparation program to  
25 participate in the partnership program;

26           (2) integrate curriculum, classroom practice, and  
27 formal observation and feedback;

1           (3) use multiple assessments to measure a partnership  
2 resident's progress in the partnership program; and

3           (4) ensure a school district or open-enrollment  
4 charter school with which an educator preparation program partners  
5 under this subchapter meets the requirements for participating  
6 districts and schools under Section 21.904.

7           Sec. 21.904. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS AND  
8 SCHOOLS. (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school  
9 participating in the partnership program shall:

10           (1) enter into a written agreement with a qualified  
11 educator preparation program to:

12                   (A) provide a partnership resident with at least  
13 one school year of clinical teaching in a residency position at the  
14 district or school in the subject area and grade level for which the  
15 resident seeks certification; and

16                   (B) pair the partnership resident with a mentor  
17 teacher;

18           (2) only use money received under Section 48.157 to:

19                   (A) implement the partnership program; and

20                   (B) provide compensation to:

21                           (i) partnership residents in residency  
22 positions at the district or school; and

23                           (ii) mentor teachers who are paired with  
24 partnership residents at the district or school;

25           (3) pay at least 50 percent of the compensation paid to  
26 partnership residents using money other than money received under  
27 Section 48.157; and

1           (4) provide any information required by the agency  
2 regarding the district's or school's implementation of the program.

3           (b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may  
4 only pair a partnership resident with a mentor teacher who agrees to  
5 participate in that role in a partnership program at the district or  
6 school partnership program.

7           (c) A partnership resident may not serve as a teacher of  
8 record, as that term is defined by Section [21.051](#).

9           Sec. 21.905. RESIDENCY EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE. The board  
10 shall propose rules specifying the requirements for the issuance of  
11 a residency educator certificate to a partnership resident who has  
12 successfully completed the program. The rules may not require the  
13 resident to pass a pedagogy examination unless the examination  
14 tests subject-specific content appropriate for the grade and  
15 subject area for which the candidate seeks certification.

16           Sec. 21.906. AGENCY SUPPORT. The agency shall provide  
17 technical assistance, planning, and support to school districts,  
18 open-enrollment charter schools, and qualified educator  
19 preparation programs, which must include:

20           (1) providing model forms and agreements a district,  
21 school, or educator preparation program may use to comply with the  
22 requirements of this subchapter; and

23           (2) support for district and school strategic staffing  
24 and compensation models to incentivize participation in a  
25 partnership program.

26           Sec. 21.907. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CERTAIN FUNDS. The  
27 commissioner may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations

1 from public and private entities to use for the purposes of this  
2 subchapter.

3 Sec. 21.908. RULES. (a) The board shall propose rules  
4 necessary to implement this subchapter, including rules under  
5 Sections 21.903 and 21.905.

6 (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to  
7 implement this subchapter.

8 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 48, Education Code, is  
9 amended by adding Section 48.157 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 48.157. RESIDENCY PARTNERSHIP ALLOTMENT. (a) In this  
11 section:

12 (1) "Partnership program" and "partnership resident"  
13 have the meanings assigned by Section 21.901.

14 (2) "Rural campus" has the meaning assigned by Section  
15 48.112.

16 (b) For each partnership resident employed at a district in  
17 a residency position under Subchapter R, Chapter 21, the district  
18 is entitled to an allotment equal to a base amount of \$22,000  
19 increased by the high needs and rural factor, as determined under  
20 Subsection (c), to an amount not to exceed \$42,000.

21 (c) The high needs and rural factor is determined by  
22 multiplying \$5,000 by the lesser of:

23 (1) the average of the point value assigned to each  
24 student at a district campus under Section 48.112(d); or

25 (2) 4.0.

26 (d) In addition to the funding under Subsection (b), a  
27 district that qualifies for an allotment under this section is

1 entitled to an additional \$2,000 for each partnership resident  
2 employed in a residency position at the district who is a candidate  
3 for special education certification.

4 (e) The Texas School for the Deaf and the Texas School for  
5 the Blind and Visually Impaired are entitled to an allotment under  
6 this section. If the commissioner determines that assigning point  
7 values under Subsection (c) to students enrolled in the Texas  
8 School for the Deaf or the Texas School for the Blind and Visually  
9 Impaired is impractical, the commissioner may use the average point  
10 value assigned for those students' home districts for purposes of  
11 calculating the high needs and rural factor.

12 SECTION 3. Subchapter Q, Chapter 21, Education Code, is  
13 repealed.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.