

By: Perez of El Paso

H.B. No. 2850

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to financial incentives for public school teachers who  
commit to teach a dual credit course.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding  
Subchapter QQ to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER QQ. FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR DUAL CREDIT COURSE  
TEACHERS

Sec. 61.9981. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.

The board shall establish a program to provide tuition assistance  
to assist teachers in obtaining a master's degree required to teach  
a dual credit course.

Sec. 61.9982. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive  
tuition assistance under this subchapter, a person must:

(1) apply to the board in the form and manner  
prescribed by board rule;

(2) be enrolled in a master's degree program at an  
institution of higher education;

(3) hold a certificate issued under Subchapter B,  
Chapter 21;

(4) enter into an agreement with the board as provided  
by Section 61.9983; and

(5) at the time of application for tuition assistance:

(A) have been employed full time for at least one

1 year by a public school in this state; and

2 (B) currently be employed full time by a public  
3 school in this state.

4 Sec. 61.9983. AGREEMENT. To qualify for tuition assistance  
5 under this subchapter, a person must enter into a written agreement  
6 with the board as provided by this section. The agreement must  
7 require the person to:

8 (1) obtain, within the period prescribed by board  
9 rule, a master's degree required to teach a dual credit course; and

10 (2) teach a dual credit course in a public school in  
11 this state for the next five school years.

12 Sec. 61.9984. TUITION ASSISTANCE. (a) The board by rule  
13 shall establish the amount of tuition assistance that may be  
14 awarded to each participant in the program.

15 (b) The board shall deliver any tuition assistance awarded  
16 under this subchapter directly to an institution of higher  
17 education on the participant's behalf.

18 Sec. 61.9985. REIMBURSEMENT; EXCEPTIONS. (a) A program  
19 participant who fails to meet the requirements of Section 61.9983  
20 shall reimburse the board for the amount of any tuition assistance  
21 received by the participant under this subchapter.

22 (b) The board shall grant a participant, in the event of a  
23 hardship or for other good cause shown, a one-year grace period to  
24 meet the requirements of Section 61.9983 before requiring the  
25 participant to reimburse the board under Subsection (a).

26 Sec. 61.9986. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to  
27 using money appropriated by the legislature for this purpose, the

1 board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations for the  
2 purposes of this subchapter.

3 Sec. 61.9987. RULES. The board shall adopt rules necessary  
4 for the administration of this subchapter, including a rule that  
5 sets the maximum amount of tuition assistance a person may receive  
6 under this subchapter.

7 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
8 shall adopt rules for the administration of Subchapter QQ, Chapter  
9 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable  
10 after this Act takes effect.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.