

- SUBJECT:** Relating to teacher preparation, certification, and classification
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Gooden, K. King, Koop, Meyer, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Dutton
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 4 — 30-1 (Burton)
- WITNESSES:** For — Mary Malone; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Megan Herring, Children at Risk, Dallas ISD, Early Matters Dallas, First 3 Years, Stand for Children, Success By 6, United Way for Greater Austin, the Commit Partnership; Liz Garbutt, Children's Defense Fund - Texas; John R. Pitts, Dallas Early Education Alliance, Momentous Institute, United Way of Metro Dallas; Lanet Greenhaw, Dallas Regional Chamber; Jenna Watts, Deans For Impact; Seth Rau, San Antonio ISD; Diane Ewing, Texans Care for Children; Miranda Goodsheller, Texas Association of Business; Kyle Ward, Texas PTA; Bryan Hebert, United Ways of Texas; Lindsay Sobel)
- Against — None
- On — John Fitzpatrick, Educate Texas, CFT; David Hinojosa, Texas Latino Education Coalition; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Ryan Franklin, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, sec. 21.003(a) requires that a person employed as a teacher in a public school district hold the appropriate teaching certificate. Under 19 TAC, part 7, §233.2, teachers who teach prekindergarten through grade 6 must hold an early childhood through grade 6 certificate.
- Under Education Code, sec. 42.006, each school district is required to

participate in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS). Each school district and open-enrollment charter school is required to provide certain information, including the number of students with dyslexia and useful, accurate, and timely information on student demographics and academic performance, personnel, and school district finances.

Observers have suggested that educator preparation programs could benefit from having data provided through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to measure student outcomes. Some also note that offering a specialized certificate to teach prekindergarten through grade 3 would provide educators with the knowledge and skills needed to instruct those grades. Others contend that a more streamlined certification process for out-of-state teachers would benefit public education.

DIGEST:

CSSB 1839 would require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to provide certain data to educator preparation programs, create an early childhood certification to teach students in prekindergarten through grade three, and revise the certification process for teachers from out of state.

Access to PEIMS data. CSSB 1839 would require TEA to provide educator preparation programs with data based on information reported through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) that would enable an educator preparation program to:

- assess the impact of the program; and
- revise the program as needed to improve its design and effectiveness.

TEA, in coordination with the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), would be required to solicit input from educator preparation programs to determine the data to be provided.

TEA would be required to provide data that is compiled and analyzed by the TEA based on information reported through PEIMS to each educator

preparation program.

Early childhood certification. CSSB 1839 would require the SBEC to create an early childhood certificate to specially train teachers on instruction in prekindergarten through grade 3. A person would not have to hold the certificate to teach prekindergarten through grade 3 in a school district. To be eligible for the certificate, a person either would have to complete the course work for an early childhood certificate in an educator preparation program or would have to hold an early childhood through grade six certificate and complete a course of instruction in early childhood education. All candidates would have to perform satisfactorily on an early childhood certificate exam and satisfy any other board requirements.

The board would develop criteria for the course of instruction for an early childhood certificate in consultation with college and university faculty members who taught education preparation programs.

SBEC would propose rules establishing requirements and prescribing an exam for early childhood certification and standards governing the approval and renewal of educator preparation programs for that certification.

Out-of-state teacher certification. The commissioner of education could adopt rules establishing exceptions to the examination requirements for an educator from outside the state to obtain a certificate in Texas.

Effective date. The bill would take effect September 1, 2017. The commissioner of education would have to implement provisions related to the access of PEIMS data only if the Legislature appropriated money for that purpose. Otherwise, the commissioner would be authorized but not required to implement them using other available funds.

NOTES:

The Legislative Budget Board estimates CSSB 1839 would result in a negative impact of \$595,888 to general revenue related funds through fiscal 2019, assuming the Legislature made an appropriation to implement

the bill.