

## CHAPTER 250

## H.B. No. 183

## AN ACT

relating to developing and promoting educational technology through pilot, model, or demonstration projects.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 14, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 14.0451 to read as follows:

*Sec. 14.0451. PROJECTS FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY. (a) The Central Education Agency shall establish one or more pilot, model, or demonstration projects as the agency determines is appropriate to test the effectiveness and feasibility of educational technologies not currently in general use in the school districts of this state, including computer-assisted instruction and instructional management and telecommunications instruction. A project may be conducted in one or more entire school districts or in one or more individual schools as the agency determines is appropriate.*

*(b) In designing projects under this section, the agency may attempt to address any special educational needs or concerns that the agency determines may be served by educational technologies, such as:*

- (1) basic skills improvement;*
- (2) curriculum enhancement and diversity;*
- (3) dropout prevention;*
- (4) adult education and literacy and enhancement of adult work force skills and competency;*
- (5) mathematics and science, foreign language, English as a second language, and bilingual education;*
- (6) school districts with high concentrations of students from low-income families;*

- (7) rural school districts and others with restricted educational opportunities;
- (8) students with special needs, including migratory students, gifted students, and students with disabilities;
- (9) early childhood education;
- (10) teacher training and assistance;
- (11) school system management; and
- (12) coordination among schools, junior colleges, and other off-campus centers.

(c) The agency shall design the projects to encourage the participation and support of the private sector, state and federal agencies, and junior colleges and other institutions of higher education. The agency may design a project to qualify for specific local, state, federal, or private grants or other support, and may accept gifts, grants, or other financial or in-kind support for purposes of this section.

(d) The agency may suspend for the duration of a project at a particular site a requirement or prohibition imposed by state law limitations that hinders the application of the technology or is made unnecessary by the use of the technology.

(e) The agency shall ensure to the extent practicable that projects established under this section do not result in the use of advertising or commercialization in the classroom.

(f) To participate in a project, a school district must apply to the agency. The agency shall notify each school district of each project in a manner that gives each school district a reasonable opportunity to apply for participation. The agency may impose any conditions on the participation of a school district in a project that the agency determines to be appropriate.

(g) The agency shall study the effectiveness and feasibility of educational technologies included in a project and shall report to the legislature annually the results of its studies. Its reports shall include any recommendations for the development, implementation, or coordination of educational technologies for use in the school districts of this state.

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 7, 1993: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 1 present not voting; passed by the Senate on May 12, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 23, 1993.

Effective May 23, 1993.