

**84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session
House Bill 1, Article III**

Sec. 45. Program to Encourage Certification to Teach Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, or Spanish.

Of the funds appropriated by this Act to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Coordinating Board may use an amount that is not less than \$150,000 for each year of the 2016-17 biennium to develop and operate a program at the University of North Texas, University of North Texas at Dallas, Texas Woman's University, University of Texas Dallas, University of Texas Arlington, Texas A&M Commerce and DFW Tech Teach - Texas Tech University, in consultation with the university, to provide financial incentives in the form of tuition assistance, to encourage students who enroll in an educator preparation program at the university to become certified to teach bilingual education, English as a Second Language, or Spanish in school districts with high critical needs.

The program shall make awards to qualified students admitted to the Teacher Education Program in Bilingual Education. Qualified students must: 1) have demonstrated financial need, as determined by the completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form and the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships; 2) Successfully pass the State Board of Educator Certification Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test; and 3) Maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA. The program shall submit a report not later than January 1, 2017 to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board detailing annual information on the following performance measures:

- Student graduation rates from the program;
- Passage rates for the Texas Examination of Education Standards Bilingual Education Supplemental exam and/or the English as a Second Language Supplemental exam; and Graduate employment data at Texas public school districts.

Distribution of Funding for Programs to Encourage Certification to Teach Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, or Spanish

Strawman

House Bill 1, Article III, Special Provisions Relating Only to State Agencies of Higher Education, Section 45 was passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. It provides:

Of the funds appropriated by this Act to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the Coordinating Board may use an amount that is not less than \$150,000 for each year of the 2016-17 biennium to develop and operate a program at the University of North Texas, University of North Texas at Dallas, Texas Woman's University, University of Texas Dallas, University of Texas Arlington, Texas A&M Commerce and DFW Tech Teach - Texas Tech University, in consultation with the university, to provide financial incentives in the form of tuition assistance, to encourage students who enroll in an educator preparation program at the university to become certified to teach bilingual education, English as a Second Language, or Spanish in school districts with high critical needs.

The program shall make awards to qualified students admitted to the Teacher Education Program in Bilingual Education. Qualified students must: 1) have demonstrated financial need, as determined by the completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form and the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships; 2) Successfully pass the State Board of Educator Certification Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test; and 3) Maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA. The program shall submit a report not later than January 1, 2017 to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board detailing annual information on the following performance measures:

- Student graduation rates from the program;
- Passage rates for the Texas Examination of Education Standards Bilingual Education Supplemental exam and/or the English as a Second Language Supplemental exam; and Graduate employment data at Texas public school districts.

The Legislative Budget Board has provided approval for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to utilize excess funding from the Top Ten Percent Scholarship Program in order to distribute funding to eligible institutions based on Section 45. Specifically, the LBB approves of the agency:

In Fiscal year 2017 transferring \$2,100,000 in excess funds to institutions for reimbursement of costs associated with bilingual education programs in fiscal year 2016 and to continue these programs at that reimbursed level in fiscal year 2017.

Distribution of the one-time appropriation of excess funds for costs associated with bilingual education programs at the University of North Texas, University of North Texas at Dallas, Texas Woman's University, University of Texas Dallas, University of Texas Arlington, Texas A&M Commerce and DFW Tech Teach - Texas Tech University will occur as follows:

- Each eligible institution will review the requirements of House Bill 1, Article III, Special Provisions Relating Only to State Agencies of Higher Education, Section 45 to determine the amount they are able to spend within the guidelines outlined by the Section.
- By August 1, 2016, each eligible institution will submit to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board a request for the amount they are able to spend in FY2016 and FY2017 within the guidelines outlined by Section 45, not to exceed \$150,000 per fiscal year.

- By October 15, 2016, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will review Top Ten Percent Scholarship funding levels to determine the total excess funding available, not to exceed \$2,100,000.
- If the total requests from the eligible institutions do not exceed the total excess funding identified by the agency, then each eligible institution will receive a distribution equal to their request.
- If the total requests from the eligible institutions exceed the total excess funding identified by the agency, then each eligible institution will receive a distribution equal to their share of the total excess funding identified by the agency based on the percentage of the institution's request as compared to the total of all requests from eligible institutions.
- Not later than January 1, 2017, each eligible institution receiving a distribution of funding through this allocation methodology will submit a report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board detailing annual information of the following performance measures:
 - Student graduation rates from the program;
 - Passage rates for the Texas Examination of Education Standards Bilingual Education Supplemental exam and/or the English as a Second Language Supplemental exam; and
 - Graduate employment data at Texas public school districts.