

- SUBJECT:** Creating a school turnaround endorsement certificate for principals
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Dutton, Allen, Allison, K. Bell, Bernal, Buckley, González, Huberty, K. King, Meza, Talarico, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Lozano
- WITNESSES:** For — Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Grover Campbell, TASB; Kristin McGuire, TCASE; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Eric Marin and Jessica McLoughlin, Texas Education Agency; Annemarie Donnelly)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 21.046 establishes qualifications for certification as a school superintendent or principal. Qualifications for certification as a principal must be sufficiently flexible so that an outstanding teacher may qualify by substituting approved experience and professional training for part of the educational requirements.
- Interested parties have noted that many school district campuses across Texas have received an F rating under the state's accountability system and that the state would benefit from the establishment of a school turnaround endorsement certificate program for principals that could help these educators receive the training to assist struggling school districts and campuses.

**DIGEST:** HB 1207 would require the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to propose rules establishing training requirements and coursework for a principal to successfully complete to receive a school turnaround specialist endorsement as an addendum to a principal certificate.

In proposing the rules, SBEC would have to ensure that each person who received the endorsement demonstrated the knowledge and skills necessary to significantly improve teacher and student performance at a campus assigned an overall performance rating of F under the Education Code.

**Program.** SBEC would have to solicit proposals by March 1, 2022, for a school turnaround specialist endorsement program from appropriate educator preparation programs. From among the school turnaround specialist endorsement programs proposed to SBEC capable of satisfying the applicable requirements, the board may select no more than three of the programs that may be offered to principals.

A school turnaround specialist endorsement program would have to partner with one or more school districts that need principals with the training and education necessary to significantly improve teacher and student performance at one or more campuses assigned an overall performance rating of F.

The program must have appropriately qualified faculty to:

- conduct a campus leadership-needs analysis;
- develop and provide the training and course work required by rules proposed under this section; and
- provide necessary support to program candidates;

The program would have to establish a selective admissions process to ensure that each principal admitted to the program:

- possessed a significant knowledge of educational organizations, educational instruction, and teacher professional development;

- demonstrated the ability to develop and implement campus-based systems that improve student learning; and
- demonstrated the attributes of principals who had significantly improved teacher and student performance at underperforming campuses.

The program must offer a full-time internship that continued for at least one semester and provided meaningful interaction with the central administrative office of a school district. It also would have to collaborate with school districts to provide program participants who completed the program with continued support for at least two years after the participants' initial assignment to a campus.

**Principal requirements.** To be eligible for admission to a school turnaround specialist endorsement program under this section, a principal must:

- hold a principal certificate;
- have served as a principal or assistant principal for at least three school years before applying to the program;
- demonstrate significant knowledge of educational organizations, educational instruction, and teacher professional development;
- demonstrate the attributes of principals who have significantly improved teacher and student performance at underperforming campuses; and
- provide evidence of the ability to develop and implement campus-based systems that improve student learning.

SBEC would have to periodically evaluate school turnaround specialist endorsement programs selected under the bill. For the purposes of evaluating the programs, SBEC would have to require each program to submit data, as determined appropriate by the board, for each year and at each five-year interval.

SBEC would have to propose rules relating to the school turnaround specialist endorsement to the school principal certificate no later than

January 1, 2022.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.