

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
80R6029 SLO-D

S.B. 1049
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Education
4/2/2007
As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

In the past 10 years, the number of students diagnosed with autism or autism-related disorders has risen dramatically in Texas. Reports show that there were approximately 16,799 students with autism or autism-related disorders in Texas public schools during the 2005-2006 school year. It is important for school districts to have access to the most current and accurate information concerning the best teaching and assistance methods that are used to help students with autism.

As proposed, S.B. 1049 requires an online clearinghouse maintained by the Texas Education Agency to include certain information as it relates to instruction of students with autism and autism-related disorders.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to any state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 7.009, Education Code, by adding Subsection (e), as follows:

(e) Requires the online clearinghouse established under this section (Best Practices; Clearinghouse) to include information relating to research-based programs and best practices of campuses and school districts regarding the instruction of students with autism and autism-related disorders. Requires the Texas Education Agency to provide any necessary technical assistance to a school district in implementing a research-based program described by this subsection.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2007.