

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
87R1208 KJE-D

S.B. 226  
By: Paxton  
Education  
3/23/2021  
As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

This bill has been developed by our office to improve the online education experience and results for both teachers and students who have been forced to rely on remote learning as a result of the recent pandemic.

Specifically, this bill adds training in "virtual learning" and "virtual instruction" to the existing requirements for teaching certificates for our teachers. This is reinforced by language describing that that training must cover the "best practices" in grading students receiving virtual instruction based on academic progress and developing a virtual learning curriculum that includes both synchronous and asynchronous virtual instruction. These proposed "virtual" education requirements differ from the existing "digital" requirements in that the digital requirements center more around basic computer skills.

As proposed, S.B. 226 amends current law relating to instruction in educator training programs regarding digital learning, virtual learning, and virtual instruction.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 21.001, Education Code, by adding Subdivisions (4) and (5) to define "virtual instruction" and "virtual learning."

SECTION 2. Amends Section 21.044(c-2), Education Code, as follows:

(c-2) Requires that the training required to obtain a teaching certificate include, among other instruction, instruction in virtual learning and virtual instruction, and that the required instruction, among other elements, cover best practices in grading students receiving virtual instruction, based on academic progress, and developing a virtual learning curriculum that includes synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning instruction. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2021.