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LOIS W. KOLKHORST

STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas Education Agency to Implement Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst's Education Initiatives

AUSTIN - Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath announced the implementation of Senator Lois Kolkhorst's Senate Bills 925, 934 and 972 for the summer of twenty-sixteen; a legislative package to improve Texas public schools, which Senator Kolkhorst worked to pass with Governor Abbott.

Under the legislation passed during the 84th Texas Legislature in twenty-fifteen, Senate Bill 925 established literacy achievement academies for teachers who provide reading instruction to students at the kindergarten through third grade. Senate Bill 972 established reading-to-learn academies for teachers who provide reading comprehension instruction to students at the fourth or fifth grade level. In addition, Senate Bill 934 established mathematics achievement academies for teachers who provide mathematics instruction to students at the kindergarten through third grade level.

"We're providing our public school teachers with more tools to educate and inspire our children," said Kolkhorst. "I was proud to work with Governor Greg Abbott, his staff and the Texas Education Agency over the past year in crafting and executing these sensible solutions that will stimulate teachers and improve student performance."

The Texas Education Agency announced that it will work with the states 20 regional Education Service Centers to launch the first of these academies in the summer of 2016.

"If our children are to succeed in the classroom and in life, there's no question that we must provide them a strong foundation in reading and math," said Commissioner of Education Mike Morath. "Through the leadership of Governor Abbott and Senator Kolkhorst who championed these academies in the last legislative session, teachers will now have a resource that can truly help students in two core subjects, as well as all other subjects, in elementary school and beyond."

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