

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2761

By: Coleman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 15, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 6-194), which relates to professional development programs; requiring payment of certain costs for phonics training; requiring credit for certain phonics training; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 15, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-194. A. The local boards of education of this state shall establish professional development programs for the certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district. Such programs shall be adopted by each local board of education based upon recommendations of a professional development committee appointed by the board of education for the district. By September 1, 1995, the State Board of Education shall disseminate to each local professional development committee a copy of the in-service professional development competencies included in the Report on Educator Preparation and Professional Development issued in December

1994 by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for review and consideration and, if approved by the local professional development committee, to be included in part or in whole in the local professional development plan of the school district. The professional development centers funded through the State Board of Education shall provide technical assistance to any local school district which desires to incorporate any such competencies into its local professional development plan. Each local professional development committee shall include classroom teachers, administrators and parents, guardians or custodians of children in the local school district and shall consult with a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The teacher members shall be selected from a list of names submitted by the bargaining agent, where one exists. In the absence of a bargaining agent, the teachers will elect a list of names to be submitted to the local board of education. The programs adopted may include, but not be limited to:

1. In-service training programs; and
2. Higher education courses.

Each adopted program shall include a component on outreach to parents, guardians or custodians of students and multicultural education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis. Such programs shall be submitted for approval to the Board. Teachers and administrators who have completed professional development courses in their field of instruction or in courses related to obtaining additional professional qualifications and who complete such courses and receive a grade which is equivalent to at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale may be reimbursed by the school district for one-half (1/2) of the general enrollment fees incurred at any institution

within The Oklahoma State System for Higher Education. If the teacher or administrator incurs costs pursuant to this section at a private institution of higher education, the person may be reimbursed by the school district for an amount equal to one-half (1/2) of the general enrollment fees incurred at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of comparable type. Teachers and administrators who have completed a course or program in intensive systematic phonics instruction shall be reimbursed by the school district for the full amount of any enrollment or registration fees or costs incurred by the teacher or administrator. If not otherwise approved, teachers and administrators who complete a course or program in intensive systematic phonics instruction may use such course or program to meet the professional development requirements established by the local board of education. No school district shall receive state funds for professional development until such time as the local board of education's program has been approved by the Board.

B. Each licensed or certified teacher in this state shall be required by the local board of education to meet the professional development requirements established by the board, or established through the negotiation process. Failure of any teacher to meet local board of education professional development requirements may be grounds for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the local board of education. Such failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments affecting the teacher.

C. The professional development plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Education as provided in Section 3-104.2 et seq. of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1996.

45-2-8338

KB

