

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 1424

By: Williams of the Senate

and

Boyd (Betty) of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 177, O.S.L. 1995, Section 3, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997, and Section 8, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Sections 6-122.3, 6-182, and 6-187), which relate to alternative certification and the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; deleting certain subject matter of professional education component; modifying examination requirements for alternative certification; deleting certain options for declaration of intent; requiring development of a teacher portfolio; changing name of participants; modifying requirement for certain work experience; allowing competency to be demonstrated through certain examinations; increasing hours for adjunct

teachers; allowing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to approve certain programs; modifying requirements for approval of alternative certification programs; modifying certain definition; deleting requirement for completion of certain credit hours prior to taking the test; repealing 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-128, which relates to the exceptional child course; providing for an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 177, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an Alternative Placement teaching certificate to a person who makes application to the State Board and meets all of the following criteria:

1. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

2. Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical certificate;

3. Declares the intention to earn Standard Certification by means of the Alternative Placement Program in not more than three (3) years. ~~For the purposes of the Alternative Placement Program only, the State Board of Education shall determine the subject matter of professional education component pursuant to this section,~~

~~and the requirements for the Professional Education component required for Standard Certification shall be as follows:~~

- ~~a. baccalaureate degree, and eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or~~
- ~~b. postbaccalaureate degrees, teaching experience or subject matter work experience, or a combination of the three shall reduce the eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours by the following:~~

Degree or Experience	Hour Reduction
Master's Degree	6 semester hours or 90 clock hours
Doctorate Degree	6 semester hours or 90 clock hours
1 year teaching or subject matter work experience	3 semester hours or 45 clock hours
2 years teaching or subject matter work experience	6 semester hours or 90 clock hours
3 years teaching or subject matter work experience	9 semester hours or 135 clock hours
4 years teaching or subject matter work experience	12 semester hours or 180 clock hours,

- ~~c. the State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours. Under no circumstance shall the number of hours be reduced to less than six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours.~~

- ~~d. for For purposes of this section:~~

~~(1) "teaching experience" shall mean full-time employment as a teacher in a public school, private school licensed or accredited by the State Board of Education, or institution of higher education,~~

~~(2)~~—"Subject matter work experience" shall mean work experience in a field that corresponds to the area of specialization for Elementary-Secondary Certificate, Secondary Certificate or vocational-technical certificate.

~~Such requirements shall exclude all student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of this section;~~

4. Has passed the ~~curriculum~~ competency examination(s) ~~in the area of specialization for which certification is sought as~~ specified in Section 6-187 of this title; and

5. ~~Either presents~~ Presents a document from an accredited public school district in this state offering employment in the area of specialization for which certification is sought on condition that the person enroll in an Alternative Placement Program approved by the State Board of Education ~~or declares the intention to seek employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in this state;~~ and

6. Has developed a teacher portfolio which documents the competency level of the applicant in the full competencies for licensure and certification as adopted by the State Board of Education and which shall be approved by the Teacher Competency Review Panel pursuant to Section 6-202 of this title.

~~The~~ B. An alternative placement teaching certificate granted pursuant to this ~~subsection~~ section shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder of such certificate shall be considered ~~an "entry-year~~ a "resident teacher" for the purposes of Section ~~6-154~~ 6-190 of this title.

~~B.~~ Said C. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon presentation of a document from an accredited public school district

in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of specialization and a document from a teacher education institution verifying satisfactory progress in the appropriate Alternative Placement Program.

~~C.~~ D. Persons enrolled in an Alternative Placement Program shall:

1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Oklahoma State Board of Education to offer teacher education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of such program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard certification requirements within three (3) years;

3. Participate in the ~~Entry-year Assistance~~ Residency Program, as specified in Section 6-152 et seq. 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as other ~~Entry-year Assistance~~ Residency Program participants, except those persons who hold a certificate; and

4. Document at least two (2) years of work experience which ~~is related~~ directly corresponds to the subject area of specialization ~~if the person has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related area.~~ The State Board of Education may grant an exception to this requirement if a person ~~based on that person's ability to~~ can demonstrate competency through passage of the competency examinations ~~specific competency in the subject area of specialization.~~

~~D.~~ E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience shall not be required of Alternative Placement Program participants for Standard Certification.

~~E. F.~~ F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules ~~and regulations~~ authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished qualifications in their field. ~~Provided, however,~~ ~~such~~ An adjunct ~~teachers~~ teacher shall not be required to meet standard certification. Any such adjunct teachers shall be limited to ~~ninety (90)~~ one hundred eighty (180) clock hours per semester.

~~F. G.~~ G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office of Accountability an annual report of information specified by the Office of Accountability regarding participation in the Alternative Placement Program.

~~G. After June 30, 1992, the State Board of Education~~ H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation ~~shall~~ may not accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any teacher education program of any institution of higher education in this state that has not made a commitment to, and begun implementation of, Alternative Placement Programs in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics, science and a foreign language, whereby individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C D of this section are:

1. Admitted without further qualification; and
2. Offered the opportunity to complete the Standard Certification ~~course~~ requirements set forth in subsection A of this section ~~during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year of teaching under the Alternative Placement Program.~~ ~~Provided, however, any~~ Any person seeking Alternative Placement shall be permitted to ~~take necessary courses~~ complete requirements during regular semesters if offered.

~~H. I.~~ I. The criteria specified in subsection C H of this section can be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more institutions of higher education.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-182), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

1. "Board" means the State Board of Education;
2. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;
3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;
4. "Licensed teacher" means any person who holds a valid license to teach, issued by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;
5. "Professional development program" means the program mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of this state;
6. "Teacher education professional development committee" means the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;
7. "Department" means the State Department of Education;
8. "Residency committee" means a committee in a local school district for the purpose of reviewing the teaching performance of a resident teacher and making recommendations to the Board and the preparing institution of higher education regarding certification of the resident teacher. A residency committee shall consist of a mentor teacher, the principal or an assistant principal of the employing school or an administrator designated by the local board and a teacher educator in a college or school of education of an institution of higher education, or an educator in a department or school outside the institution's teacher education unit. Provided that, if available, qualified mentor teachers shall have expertise

in the teaching field of the resident teacher and, if possible, the higher education members of the residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher. However, in all cases, at least one member of the residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher;

9. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-116 of this title;

10. "Resident teacher" means any licensed teacher or person granted an alternative placement teaching certificate who is employed in an accredited school to serve as a teacher under the guidance and assistance of a mentor teacher and residency committee. Any such person shall have completed the program of the college or school of education of the accredited institution of higher education from which the person has been graduated or be currently enrolled in an alternative placement program, and shall have successfully completed the competency examination in areas of approval in which the resident teacher seeks certification;

11. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been issued a certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

12. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher holding a standard certificate who is employed in a school district to serve as a teacher and who has been appointed to provide guidance and assistance to a resident teacher employed by the school district. A mentor teacher shall be a classroom teacher and have a minimum of two (2) years of classroom teaching experience as a certified teacher.

A mentor teacher shall be selected by the principal from a list submitted by the bargaining unit where one exists. In the absence of a bargaining agent, the teachers shall elect the names to be

submitted. No teacher may serve as a mentor teacher for more than one resident teacher at a time;

13. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the preparation of education personnel; and

14. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for licensure and certification as a teacher and shall consist of tests over general education, professional education and subject areas as defined by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 8, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-187. A. A competency examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the general education, professional education and various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area the person is seeking licensure or certification to teach which shall also include licensure or certification as an administrator, as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section, shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the confidentiality of examinations.

B. ~~Following completion of the junior year or after having completed ninety (90) college credit hours, each teacher candidate shall be eligible to take the examination.~~ No teacher candidate or resident teacher shall be eligible for licensing or certification until successfully completing the competency examination.

Certification shall be limited to areas of approval in which the licensed or certified teacher has successfully completed the

examination. Testing for certification for subjects in which a teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education, professional education or subject area portions of the examination subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

C. A teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully completed the subject area portion of the examination.

D. The Commission shall offer the first competency examination beginning July 1, 1997, but no later than October 1, 1997. Thereafter, the examination shall be offered at least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the Commission.

E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however, prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the local district shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a provisional or standard certificate or who is licensed in the teaching profession. In the event a district is unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard certificate or with a license in another curricular area with academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

SECTION 4. REPEALER 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-128, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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