

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2605

By: Coleman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 6, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-185), which relates to competencies incorporated into the teacher preparation system; requiring certain teachers to have certain reading development competencies; listing required competencies; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 6, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-185), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-185. A. The following competencies and methods shall be incorporated into the programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the competency-based teacher preparation system provided for the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

1. The teacher preparation system shall include, but not be limited to, the following competencies:

a. excellence in the arts and sciences,

- b. an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter to be taught,
- c. the ability to identify and cultivate talent and potential in students,
- d. an understanding of child and human development,
- e. teaching skills developed through a variety of learning experiences,
- f. the ability to interact effectively with all students,
- g. skills necessary for working with parents, guardians and custodians of students in the education process,
- h. skills necessary to involve the community in education,
- i. skills to foster teamwork within and among schools, and
- j. for administrators, skills necessary to be an effective leader of a school or school district;

2. The preservice program shall include the following methods to achieve the competencies listed in paragraph 1 of this subsection:

- a. require teacher candidates to study arts and sciences at the undergraduate level,
- b. require secondary and elementary/secondary teacher candidates to have undergraduate majors, or their equivalents, in a subject area, and require teacher candidates in early childhood, elementary, and special education to have subject area concentrations which allow qualification as a generalist,
- c. require teacher candidates to study the individuality of students, the capacity of students to learn and the process of learning,
- d. integrate curriculum from other disciplines with the education curriculum,

- e. require teacher candidates to have training experiences and personal contact with parents, guardians or custodians of school-age children,
- f. require teacher candidates to have community involvement experience, and
- g. structure courses so as to require teamwork activities;

3. Elementary education, reading specialists, special education, and early childhood education teacher candidates or teachers shall have the following competencies:

- a. understand and demonstrate phonemic awareness,
- b. have a working knowledge of the speech sound system,
- c. know how our orthography represents spoken English,
- d. study basic linguistics and understand the application of the concepts in clinical teaching practice,
- e. understand sound-symbol correspondences for both spelling and reading,
- f. understand syllable patterns and syllabication, and
- g. understand the effect of word meaning and word origin on spelling.

4. Prior to July 1, 1997, the State Board of Education, and on and after July 1, 1997, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not require more than a four-year program of one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours to complete a teacher education degree. Provided, any program approved by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1995, which requires more hours may continue to require such hours. Any program approved prior to July 1, 1995, which requires more than one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours for a teacher education degree shall implement requirements for this program without additional hours.

B. It is the intent of the Legislature that institutions of higher education which offer teacher education programs hold such

programs accountable for meeting the licensure and certification competencies approved by the State Board of Education. It is the intent of the Legislature that the teacher education programs incorporate a curriculum to achieve the competency-based system and include integration of the teacher preparation curricula with the arts and sciences departments curricula. Each institution of higher education which seeks accreditation or approval for its teacher education program shall develop an institution plan which follows the State Board of Education competencies for licensure and certification. In developing such institution plans, the higher education institution shall establish a process which seeks information and input from teacher preparation faculty, faculty from arts and sciences and other programs and disciplines which are appropriate, students within the teacher education program, teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or custodians of students and business and community leaders. Each institution shall hold an annual public forum subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act regarding the content of the institution plan at which public comment on either the institution's teacher preparation plan or program is solicited. The institution's plan shall be accessible to any interested party under the Oklahoma Open Records Act. No institution of higher education's teacher education program shall be approved by the Commission unless the institution plan has been approved by that institution's governing board. Initial institution plans shall be filed with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation by January 1, 1997, and as required by the Commission thereafter. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may facilitate the development of institution plans to assist institutions of higher education.

SECTION 2. 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.

46-2-8026

KB