

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 258

By: Wilcoxson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to education; amending Section 15, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as last amended by Section 23, Chapter 5, O.S.L. 1998 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 6-194), which relates to district professional development programs; modifying procedures for selection of district professional development committee members; modifying references to certain boards of education; deleting redundant language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 15, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as last amended by Section 23, Chapter 5, O.S.L. 1998 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-194. A. The ~~local~~ district boards of education of this state shall establish professional development programs for the certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district. Programs shall be adopted by each ~~local~~ district board of education based upon recommendations of a professional development committee appointed by the district board of education ~~for the district~~. The State Board of Education shall disseminate to each ~~local~~ district 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~~ If approved by the ~~local~~ district professional development committee, ~~to~~ the competencies shall be included in part or in whole in the ~~local~~ district's 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.

B. Each ~~local~~ district 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~~ district board of education will determine how teacher members are to be selected. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee shall include at least one school counselor in its membership.

C. The professional development programs adopted may include, but are not ~~be~~ limited to:

1. In-service training programs;
2. Higher education courses; and
3. Professional development programs approved by the Oklahoma

Commission for Teacher Preparation.

Programs shall emphasize development of competencies in the core curriculum areas. Each 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. Each adopted program shall allow school counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or credit required each year through programs or courses specifically designed for school counselors. Programs shall be submitted for approval to the Board. No school district shall

receive state funds for professional development until the program adopted by the ~~local~~ district board of education has been approved by the State Board of Education.

D. Teachers and administrators who have completed professional development courses in their ~~field~~ fields 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.

E. If funds are made available specifically for such purpose, teachers who have completed professional development programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall receive a stipend based on the amount of funds allocated. No stipends shall be made to teachers who attend professional development institutes in elementary reading approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. No school district shall receive state funds for teacher stipends until such time as proof of the teacher's attendance and completion of the program has been determined by the State Department of Education.

F. Each licensed or certified teacher in this state shall be required by the ~~local~~ district 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~~ district board of education professional development requirements may be grounds for nonrenewal of such teacher's

contract by the ~~local~~ district board of education. Such failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments affecting the teacher.

G. 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~~ this title.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. 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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