

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

4 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until
5 successfully completing the ~~general education and subject area~~
6 ~~portions of the~~ competency examination except those candidates who
7 make application to the State Board and meet the criteria for the
8 Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this
9 title. ~~No licensed teacher shall be eligible for certification~~
10 ~~until successfully completing the professional education portion of~~
11 ~~the competency examination.~~ Certification shall be limited to areas
12 of approval in which the licensed or certified teacher has
13 successfully completed the examination. Testing for certification
14 for subjects in which a teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a
15 minor teaching assignment or an endorsement to teach shall be
16 limited to the specific subject area test.

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

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

1 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
2 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
3 Commission.

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

18 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-190, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school
21 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in
22 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified or licensed
23 to teach by the State Board of Education in accordance with the

1 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided by
2 law.

3 B. The Board shall issue a license to teach to any person who:

4 1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program
5 required by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1997, and
6 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation beginning July 1,
7 1997;

8 2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher
9 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

10 3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the
11 Board;

12 4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency
13 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

14 5. Has successfully completed the ~~general education and subject~~
15 ~~area portions of the~~ competency examination required in Section 6-
16 187 of this title; and

17 6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a
18 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State
19 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national fingerprint-based
20 criminal history record provided by the Federal Bureau of
21 Investigation. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history
22 record, the Board may issue a temporary license which shall be
23 effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal

1 history record. The person applying for a license shall be
2 responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

3 C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
4 who:

- 5 1. a. holds a license to teach in accordance with the
6 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act,
7 b. has served a minimum of one (1) school year as a
8 resident teacher,
9 c. ~~has successfully completed the professional education~~
10 ~~portion of the competency examination required in~~
11 ~~Section 6-187 of this title,~~
12 ~~d.~~ has made the necessary application and paid the
13 certification fee as prescribed by the Board, and
14 ~~e.~~
15 d. has been recommended for certification by the
16 residency committee;
- 17 2. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets standards set by
18 the Board; or
- 19 3. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional
20 Teaching Standards.

21 D. If a resident teacher is a graduate of an out-of-state
22 institution of higher education, the recommendation of the residency
23 committee shall be made to the State Board of Education.

1 E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to
2 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the
3 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional
4 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher
5 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2002.

7 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
8 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 2-11-02 - DO
12 PASS, As Coauthored.