

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1468

By: Paddack

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-122.3, which relates to alternative placement teaching certificate; requiring certain minimum grade point average; limiting authorization for reduction of certain education component; directing Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to establish certain core minimum education component; increasing certain minimum professional education component; updating certain entity responsible for certain duties; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 236, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 6-187), which relates to competency examinations; requiring completion of certain programs for certification in certain areas; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, 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 and has attained a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale;

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 degree, 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	and 12 semester hours or <u>one hundred eighty 180 clock hours</u>.

- c. ~~the State Board of Education~~ Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall establish a core minimum of six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours for

the professional education component. Under no circumstance shall the total number of hours be ~~reduced to less than six (6)~~ twelve (12) semester hours or ~~ninety (90)~~ one hundred eighty (180) clock hours.

d. 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 E of this section;

4. Has passed the general education and subject area portions of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title in the area of specialization for which certification is sought; and

5. Either 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. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection 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 a resident teacher for the purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

B. Said 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. 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 Program, Section 6-152 et seq. of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as other Entry-year Assistance Program participants, except those persons who hold a certificate; and

4. Document at least two (2) years of work experience which is related to the subject area of specialization if the person has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related area.

D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the requirements for licensure and certification and, upon demonstration by an individual of specific competency in the subject area of specialization, may grant a license or certificate to the

individual. The State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant such exceptions.

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

F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be required to meet standard certification. Any such adjunct teachers shall be limited to ninety (90) clock hours per semester.

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.

H. ~~The State Board of Education~~ Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall 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 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 person seeking Alternative Placement shall be permitted to take necessary courses during regular semesters if offered.

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

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 236, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, 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. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until successfully completing the competency examination except those candidates who make application to the State Board and meet the criteria for the Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to areas of approval in which the licensed or certified teacher has successfully completed the examination. ~~Testing~~ Subject to the provisions of subsection C of this section, 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; provided, certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination 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 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

50-2-2705

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6/13/2015 8:29:00 AM