

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 420

By: Wilcoxson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-204.2, as last amended by Section 23, Chapter 434, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 6-204.2), which relates to the Education Leadership Oklahoma program; requiring Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to emphasize certain recruiting efforts for certain program; specifying preference for certain scholarship recipients; requiring State Department of Education to provide certain bonus to certain teachers on certain conditions; requiring State Department of Education to provide certain notification; modifying criteria for eligibility of certain teachers for certain bonus; requiring State Board of Education to contract for certain independent study contingent on funding; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-204.2, as last amended by Section 23, Chapter 434, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 6-204.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-204.2 A. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and the State Board of Education are authorized to establish the Education Leadership Oklahoma program.

B. The purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program are:

1. Provide teachers throughout the state information about National Board certification and the Education Leadership Oklahoma program scholarships and services;

2. Provide technical assistance and National Board certified mentors to all teachers seeking National Board certification upon request;

3. Provide scholarships, pursuant to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act and Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation rules, for teachers seeking National Board certification;

4. Provide a bonus to teachers who achieve National Board certification pursuant to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act and State Board of Education rules;

5. Reward teachers who achieve National Board certification without the financial support of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program by awarding them the application fee and the amount of the scholarship given to Education Leadership Oklahoma participants pursuant to this section and commission rules; and

6. Provide recognition to National Board certified teachers.

C. To fulfill the objectives of the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

1. Inform teachers of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program and the scholarships and services it provides to teachers seeking National Board certification, emphasizing recruiting efforts toward teachers at schools on the school improvement list as determined by the State Department of Education pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, at schools where more than fifty percent (50%) of students qualify for the free and reduced price lunch program, and in districts with the lowest percentage of teachers who have achieved National Board certification;

2. Collect and review applications to the scholarship program from interested teachers;

3. Establish an applicant review committee for the purpose of identifying scholarship recipients pursuant to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act for the Education Leadership Oklahoma program; and

4. Ensure that all scholarship recipients, alternates, and teachers seeking National Board certification independently receive

adequate information regarding the level of commitment required to acquire National Board certification.

D. The applicant review committee shall:

1. Consist of:

- a. five classroom teachers appointed by the State Board of Education, at least one of whom shall be a National Board certified teacher, if available,
- b. five classroom teachers appointed by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, at least one of whom shall be a National Board certified teacher, if available,
- c. three classroom teachers appointed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, at least one of whom shall be a National Board certified teacher, if available, and
- d. a chair to be designated by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation from among the appointed members; and

2. Select up to ~~two hundred teachers for the 1999-00 class, up to~~ four hundred teachers ~~beginning with the 2000-01 class and every year thereafter.~~ The Committee shall give preference to teachers at schools on the school improvement list as determined by the State Department of Education pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, at schools where more than fifty percent (50%) of students qualify for the free and reduced price lunch program, and in districts with the lowest percentage of teachers who have achieved National Board certification, and the appropriate number of alternates, who:

- a. have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching,
- b. meet all eligibility requirements for potential certification as established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards,

- c. are employed in an Oklahoma public school, and
- d. meet other requirements of the Commission.

E. Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes of this subsection, the application fee for National Board certification shall be paid for scholarship recipients by the Commission, and scholarship recipients shall be provided a scholarship in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to cover other expenses associated with obtaining National Board certification.

F. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation contract with Southeastern Oklahoma State University to establish Education Leadership Oklahoma program training in higher education teacher preparation programs in the state to assist teachers in meeting the requirements to obtain National Board certification.

G. All teachers seeking National Board certification shall be eligible to participate in Education Leadership Oklahoma program training to assist them in meeting the requirements of the National Board certification process, free of charge.

H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt rules for the selection of scholarship recipients, the selection and utilization of alternates, the payment and reimbursement of application fees, and the issuance of scholarships.

I. Subject to district board of education policy or collective bargaining agreement, additional professional leave days may be granted to teachers seeking National Board certification for National Board certification portfolio development. During the two (2) days of the additional professional days granted to teachers for National Board certification portfolio development, a substitute teacher shall be provided by the school district at no cost to the teacher.

J. The State Board of Education shall provide ~~all teachers~~ each teacher who ~~attain~~ initially attains National Board certification a bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) ~~annually~~ no later than January 31 ~~for as long as they maintain their National Board certification and are~~ following receipt of the certification if the teacher is teaching in the classroom full-time in an Oklahoma a public school in this state. Each year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall provide a bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) no later than January 31 if the teacher fulfills the requirements set forth in subsection L of this section. The Department shall notify each teacher who has attained National Board certification of the requirements of subsection L of this section on or before September 1 of each year. No school or school district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this section.

K. The bonus shall not be included in the calculation of the teacher's salary for purposes of meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for purposes of ~~compensating~~ calculating Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System contributions or benefits.

L. The State Board of Education shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt rules for the provision of the bonus pursuant to this section to include, but not be limited to, a process by which a National Board certified teacher will verify that:

1. The National Board certification has not lapsed; ~~and~~
2. The teacher is still a full-time teacher;
3. The teacher is serving as a mentor for the purposes of

improving classroom instruction and student achievement to:

- a. a teacher on an improvement plan, pursuant to Section 6-101.24 of this title,
- b. a teacher who requested mentoring, upon approval of the principal,

- c. a teacher or teachers, upon assignment by the principal, or
- d. a resident teacher, pursuant to Section 6-195 of this title; and

4. The teacher agrees to participate in evaluation research approved by the State Department of Education or the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

M. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education incorporate the National Board certification portfolio development into all programs in education leading to a master's level degree.

N. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in subsections O and P of this section, the State Board of Education shall provide all teachers who attain National Board certification a bonus in the amount of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) annually no later than January 31 ~~for as long as they maintain their National Board certification and are full-time teachers in an Oklahoma public school~~ if the teacher fulfills the requirements set forth in subsection L of this section. No school or school district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this section. Upon implementation, the bonus provided for in this subsection shall replace the bonus provided for in subsection J of this section.

O. Implementation of subsection N of this section shall be contingent upon the appropriation by the Legislature of state funds for the specific purpose of implementing subsection N of this section. Nothing in this section shall prevent the State Board of Education or a school district board of education from utilizing private, local, or federal funds to implement subsection N of this section.

P. Implementation of subsection N of this section shall be delayed until the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted

dollars for the 1998-99 school year or any school year thereafter for Oklahoma, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics annually in the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches at least ninety percent (90%) of the regional average expenditure for that same year, and funds are provided. For purposes of this subsection, the regional average expenditure shall consist of the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for each of the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of each year, the State Board of Education shall report whether or not the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached based on information reported annually in the Digest of Education Statistics by the National Center for Education Statistics. Subsection N of this section shall be implemented on July 1 after the first January 1 report verifies that the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached and funds have been provided for the specific purposes of the section.

Q. Contingent on the availability of funds, the State Board of Education shall contract for an independent value-added study of National Board certification and the Education Leadership Oklahoma program with an entity located in this state with experience conducting similar research.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

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.