

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 754

By: Wilcoxson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-194, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 6-194), which relates to local professional development programs; clarifying language; removing requirement of State Board of Education to disseminate certain information; deleting obsolete language; requiring data driven approach in developing certain recommendations; deleting certain professional development delivery methods; requiring professional development programs be directed toward certain purposes; removing certain requirements; authorizing districts to utilize any delivery method for professional development not prohibited by law; deleting language relating to reimbursement of certain fees and payment of stipends; making administrators subject to certain requirements; deleting redundant language; prohibiting restriction of funds appropriated for staff development; requiring allocation of certain funds on average daily attendance basis for certain purpose; requiring State Department of Education to make available certain best practices and provide certain information on website; 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 6-194, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2004, 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~~ board of education based upon recommendations of a professional development committee appointed by the board of education for the district. ~~The State Board of Education shall disseminate to each local 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 approved by the local professional development committee, to be included in part or in whole in the local 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~~ 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~~ board of education. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee shall include at least one school counselor in its membership.

C. In developing program recommendations, each professional development committee shall annually utilize a data driven approach to analyze student data and determine individual teacher professional development needs. The professional development programs adopted ~~may include, but 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~~ for teachers and administrators shall ~~emphasize~~ be directed toward development of competencies in the core curriculum areas for the purposes of increasing the academic performance index scores for the district and each school site, closing achievement gaps among student sub-groups, increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-mandated tests and the ACT, increasing high school graduation rates, and decreasing college remediation rates. Each program shall also include components on classroom management and student discipline strategies, ~~outreach to parents, guardians or custodians of students, and multicultural education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116 of 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. Districts are authorized to utilize any delivery means for professional development that is not prohibited by law. Programs shall be submitted for approval to the State Board of Education. 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 Board.

D. ~~Teachers and administrators who have completed professional development courses in their field 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 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 or administrator in this state shall be required by the ~~local~~ board of education to meet the professional development requirements established by the board, or established through the negotiation process. Failure of any teacher or administrator to meet ~~local~~ board of education professional development requirements may be grounds for nonrenewal of such teacher's or administrator's contract by the ~~local~~ board of education. Such failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments affecting the teacher or administrator.

~~G. The professional development plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Education as provided in Section 3-104.2 et seq. of this title.~~

E. Funds appropriated for staff development shall not be restricted to any specific program, but shall be allocated on an average daily attendance basis to school districts for the purpose of staff development pursuant to this section.

F. The State Department of Education shall determine best practices demonstrated by districts as a result of their professional development programs and provide a searchable resource on the Department website to assist schools. The Department shall also make available on its website a report of each district's state and federal allocations for professional development.

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.

50-1-193

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