

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 3197

6 By: Denney

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
9 Section 6-122.3, which relates to alternative
10 placement teaching certificate; clarifying statutory
11 language; requiring certain minimum grade point
12 average; deleting authorization for reduction of
13 certain education component; directing the State
14 Board of Education to establish certain core minimum
15 education component; increasing certain minimum
16 professional education component; deleting certain
17 definitions; updating statutory language; updating
18 certain entity responsible for certain duties;
19 modifying eligibility requirements for an alternative
20 placement program; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-
21 187, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 236, O.S.L.
22 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 6-187), which
23 relates to competency examinations; requiring
24 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 Replacement~~ alternative placement teaching certificate

1 to a person who makes application to the State Board and meets all
2 of the following criteria:

3 1. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution
4 whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for
5 Higher Education and has attained a cumulative grade point average
6 of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale;

7 2. Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area
8 of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a
9 Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical certificate;

10 3. Declares the intention to earn ~~Standard Certification~~
11 standard certification by means of ~~the Alternative Placement Program~~
12 an alternative placement program in not more than three (3) years.
13 ~~For the purposes of the Alternative Placement Program only, the The~~
14 State Board of Education shall determine the subject matter of the
15 professional education component ~~pursuant to this section, and the~~
16 ~~requirements~~ of an alternative placement program. The number of
17 clock or semester hours required for the ~~Professional Education~~
18 professional education component of an alternative placement program
19 needed to qualify required for ~~Standard Certification~~ standard
20 certification shall be as follows:

- 21 a. baccalaureate degree, ~~and~~ eighteen (18) semester hours
22 or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or
23 b. postbaccalaureate ~~degrees~~ degree, ~~teaching experience~~
24 ~~or subject matter work experience, or a combination of~~

1 ~~the three shall reduce the eighteen (18) semester~~
2 ~~hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours by the~~
3 ~~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	(twelve) 12 semester hours

21 or one hundred eighty (180) clock hours₇.

22 c. the State Board of Education shall establish a core
23 minimum of six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock
24 hours for the professional education component. ~~Under~~

1 ~~no circumstance shall the number of hours be reduced~~
2 ~~to less than six (6) semester hours or ninety (90)~~
3 ~~clock hours.~~

4 ~~d. for purposes of this section:~~

5 ~~(1) "teaching experience" shall mean full-time~~
6 ~~employment as a teacher in a public school,~~
7 ~~private school licensed or accredited by the~~
8 ~~State Board of Education, or institution of~~
9 ~~higher education,~~

10 ~~(2) "subject matter work experience" shall mean work~~
11 ~~experience in a field that corresponds to the~~
12 ~~area of specialization for Elementary Secondary~~
13 ~~Certificate, Secondary Certificate or vocational-~~
14 ~~technical certificate.~~

15 ~~Such~~ The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude
16 all student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
17 subsection E of this section;

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

22 5. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
23 district in this state offering employment in the area of
24 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that

1 the person enroll in an ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative
2 placement program approved by the State Board of Education or
3 declares the intention to seek employment as a teacher at an
4 accredited public school district in this state. The certificate
5 granted pursuant to this subsection shall be considered a "valid
6 certificate of qualification" for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and
7 6-108 of this title, and the holder of ~~such~~ the certificate shall be
8 considered a resident teacher for the purposes of Section 6-195 of
9 this title.

10 B. ~~Said~~ An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
11 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
12 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district
13 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
14 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
15 verifying satisfactory progress in ~~the~~ an appropriate ~~Alternative~~
16 ~~Placement Program~~ alternative placement program.

17 C. Persons enrolled in an ~~Alternative Placement Program~~
18 alternative placement program shall:

19 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
20 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
21 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
22 Oklahoma ~~State Board of Education~~ Commission for Teacher Preparation
23 to offer teacher education programs, nor have enrolled in and
24 subsequently failed courses necessary to successfully meet the

1 minimum requirements of ~~such~~ the program, except those persons who
2 hold a certificate;

3 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an
4 Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard
5 certification requirements within three (3) years;

6 3. Participate in the ~~Entry year Assistance~~ Residency Program,
7 ~~Section 6-152 et seq. of this title~~ established in Section 6-195 of
8 this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as other
9 ~~Entry year Assistance Program participants~~ resident teachers, except
10 those persons who hold a certificate; and

11 4. Document at least ~~two (2)~~ three (3) years of work experience
12 after completion of the baccalaureate degree which is related to the
13 subject area of specialization if the person has only a
14 baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related
15 area.

16 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
17 requirements for licensure and certification and, upon demonstration
18 by an individual of specific competency in the subject area of
19 specialization, may grant a license or certificate to the
20 individual. The State Board may establish other requirements
21 necessary to grant ~~such~~ exceptions.

22 E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
23 shall not be required of ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative
24

1 placement program participants for ~~Standard Certification~~ standard
2 certification.

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

9 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office
10 of Accountability an annual report of information specified by the
11 Office of Accountability regarding participation in the ~~Alternative~~
12 ~~Placement Program~~ alternative placement programs offered by the
13 Institution.

14 H. ~~The State Board of Education~~ Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
15 Preparation shall not accredit, renew the accreditation of, or
16 otherwise approve any teacher education program of any institution
17 of higher education in this state that has not ~~made a commitment to,~~
18 ~~and begun implementation of, Alternative Placement Programs~~
19 implemented alternative placement programs in at least four areas of
20 specialization, including mathematics, science and a foreign
21 language, ~~whereby~~. Each institution shall allow individuals who
22 meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this section ~~are~~ to be:

23 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
24 qualification; and

1 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the ~~Standard~~
2 ~~Certification course~~ requirements for standard certification set
3 forth in subsection A of this section during the summer preceding
4 and the summer following the first year of teaching ~~under the~~
5 ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ with an alternative placement teaching
6 certificate. ~~Provided, however, any~~ Any person seeking ~~Alternative~~
7 ~~Placement~~ standard certification through an alternative placement
8 program shall be permitted to take necessary courses during regular
9 semesters if offered.

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

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as
14 amended by Section 2, Chapter 236, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007,
15 Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 6-187. A. A competency examination shall be adopted by
17 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the general
18 education, professional education and various subject areas and
19 grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and
20 competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area
21 the person is seeking licensure or certification to teach which
22 shall also include licensure or certification as an administrator,
23 as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

24

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 competency examination except those
6 candidates who make application to the State Board and meet the
7 criteria for the Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section
8 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to areas of
9 approval in which the licensed or certified teacher has successfully
10 completed the examination. ~~Testing~~ Subject to the provisions of
11 subsection C of this section, testing for certification for subjects
12 in which a teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching
13 assignment or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the
14 specific subject area test.

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

18 C. ~~A~~ Except as herein provided, a teacher may be certified in
19 as many areas as the teacher meets the necessary requirements
20 provided by law and has successfully completed the subject area
21 portion of the examination. Certification in early childhood,
22 elementary, or special education shall require completion of an
23 appropriate teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma
24 Commission for Teacher Preparation.

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 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2008.
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