

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR ENGROSSED
5 HOUSE BILL 3124

By: Jones, Shumate and Shelton
of the House

6 and

7 Eason McIntyre of the
8 Senate

9
10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to schools; directing the State Board
12 of Education to issue a license to teach to persons
13 in the Teach for America Program; providing exemption
14 from residency program; requiring certain coursework;
15 directing State Board of Education to issue
16 certificate to teachers who meet certain
17 requirements; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-200,
18 as amended by Section 1, Chapter 249, O.S.L. 2007 (70
19 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 6-200), which relates to
20 professional development institutes; expanding the
21 reading professional development institutes to
22 include middle level; making expansion contingent
23 upon availability of funds; providing for
24 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.4 of Title 70, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. The State Board of Education shall issue a two-year,
2 nonrenewable license to teach to any person who has been accepted
3 into the Teach for America Program and has on file with the Board a
4 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State
5 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history
6 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
7 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the
8 Board may issue a temporary license which shall be effective until
9 receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record.
10 The person applying for a license shall be responsible for the cost
11 of the criminal history records.

12 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6-195 of Title 70
13 of the Oklahoma Statutes, teachers issued a license pursuant to this
14 section shall not be subject to the requirements of the residency
15 program, but shall complete the coursework requirements established
16 for participants of the Teach for America Program. Upon successful
17 completion of the coursework, the teacher shall be issued a
18 certificate to teach by the State Board of Education after
19 completion of the application and payment of the certification fee
20 as prescribed by the Board.

21 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-200, as
22 amended by Section 1, Chapter 249, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007,
23 Section 6-200), is amended to read as follows:

24

1 Section 6-200. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the
2 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall have authority to
3 develop and administer training for residency committees and
4 training for professional development through professional
5 development institutes. Included in the professional development
6 institutes training shall be technology training. Professional
7 development institutes shall be accepted by the State Board of
8 Education for professional development purposes and shall be defined
9 as continuing education experiences which consist of a minimum of
10 thirty (30) clock hours. The institutes shall be competency-based,
11 emphasize effective learning practices, require collaboration among
12 participants, and require each participant to prepare a work product
13 which can be utilized in the classroom by the participant. Any
14 state professional development institutes administered by the
15 Commission shall be chosen through a competitive bid process and if
16 funds are available subject to peer review. The Commission, prior
17 to offering any professional development institute, shall promulgate
18 rules related to administering state professional development
19 institutes.

20 B. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall
21 develop, offer and administer professional development institutes to
22 train elementary school teachers in reading education and if funds
23 are available, which may include but not be limited to grant,
24 foundation, or other funds, to train middle school teachers in

1 reading education. Funds appropriated for this purpose shall be
2 used for the cost of developing, administering and contracting for
3 the professional development institutes. When possible, certified
4 reading specialists shall be included as consultants. All costs of
5 the institutes shall be included in the contract price and no
6 tuition or registration fee shall be collected from teachers
7 attending the institutes. The institutes shall be offered by or
8 through the Commission. Working in conjunction with the State
9 Department of Education, the Commission shall develop a state plan
10 for administration of such institutes and shall report on or before
11 November 1 of each year to the Governor and the Legislature on the
12 format of and participation in the institutes. The State Department
13 of Education shall cooperate with and provide any information
14 requested, including data available through the state student record
15 system, to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation as is
16 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

17 C. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma
18 Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

19 1. Contract for an independent evaluation of the ~~elementary~~
20 ~~school~~ reading professional development ~~institute~~ institutes. The
21 evaluation shall determine adherence to program requirements as
22 provided in this section and the program's effectiveness in
23 increasing teacher knowledge and student achievement; and
24

1 2. Provide continued support of the ~~elementary school~~ reading
2 professional development institutes through ongoing teacher
3 development at individual school sites. Funds may be used for the
4 cost of mentor training, payment for substitute teachers, on-site
5 facilitation, and any other costs necessary to ensure improved
6 reading by students.

7 D. 1. For the purpose of implementing comprehensive reading
8 reform and systemic change, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
9 Preparation shall award one-year grants renewable for up to two (2)
10 additional years to public schools that serve students in
11 kindergarten through third grade. The grants will provide for:

- 12 a. a five-day initial professional development institute
13 in elementary school reading for teachers of
14 kindergarten through third grade, instructional
15 leaders, and principals,
- 16 b. a three-day follow-up professional development
17 institute in elementary school reading for teachers of
18 kindergarten through third grade and instructional
19 leaders, and
- 20 c. continued support through ongoing teacher development
21 at school sites, including four (4) days of
22 professional development for principals and literacy
23 resource specialists, and six (6) days of on-site
24 visits by a program consultant.

1 2. In order to qualify for a grant pursuant to this subsection,
2 the following requirements shall be met:

- 3 a. at least eighty percent (80%) of the teachers of
4 kindergarten through third grade at the school shall
5 have demonstrated support for the training program
6 provided pursuant to this subsection,
- 7 b. the principal shall ensure that all members of the
8 leadership team and all teachers of kindergarten
9 through third grade will participate in all phases of
10 the training program,
- 11 c. the school district shall ensure that any new teacher
12 of kindergarten through third grade or principal at
13 the school will participate in all phases of the
14 training program, and
- 15 d. the school district shall employ a literacy resource
16 specialist for at least two (2) years after completion
17 of the training provided in this subsection. One or
18 more districts may share a literacy resource
19 specialist upon approval of the Commission.

20 3. Any school which has been determined by the State Board of
21 Education to be a school in need of improvement or a school that has
22 not made adequate yearly progress in reading shall be given priority
23 for receipt of a grant. Grants shall be awarded based on the amount
24 of funds allocated to the Commission for Teacher Preparation for the

1 purposes of this section. Funds may be used for payment for
2 substitute teachers, program consultants, on-site facilitation, and
3 literacy resource specialists.

4 4. For program evaluation purposes, each school awarded a grant
5 pursuant to this subsection shall provide to the Commission student-
6 level data and results of the reading assessments administered
7 pursuant to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act for the year
8 prior to the grant award, for each year a grant is received by the
9 school, and for three (3) years after completion of the program. If
10 funds are not sufficient to award grants to all eligible applicants,
11 schools may be placed on a waiting list for priority consideration
12 for the following year's round of grant awards which shall be
13 superior to the priority given to schools as provided in paragraph 3
14 of this subsection, if the school provides student data for the
15 current year to the Commission as provided in this paragraph.

16 5. The professional development institutes in elementary
17 reading provided pursuant to this section shall incorporate the
18 requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act.

19 E. As additional funds become available for such purpose, the
20 Commission shall develop and offer professional development
21 institutes in:

- 22 1. Mathematics for teachers in grades five through nine;
- 23 2. The use of technology in the classroom;

24

1 3. Training of residency committee members in teacher
2 mentoring; and

3 4. Hands-on inquiry-based science for elementary teachers.

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

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