An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-189, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 6-189), which relates to the licensure and certification system; clarifying statutory language; modifying certification requirements for school principals; establishing certification requirements for superintendent of schools; specifying certain competencies; clarifying certain statutory citation; 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 6-189, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 6-189), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-189. A. The licensure and certification system required by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act as part of the new teacher preparation system shall be competency-based. The competencies for licensure and certification shall be integrated with competencies specified in Section 6-185 of this title. By July 1, 1996, the State Board of Education shall adopt general competencies for licensure and certification, and by January 1, 1997, the Board shall have adopted full competencies and implemented the licensure and certification systems as required in this act. No higher education courses
or credit hours may be specified by the State Board of Education in rules for licensure or
certification. Nothing in the State Board of Education’s licensure and certification rules
adopted by the Board shall prohibit the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
from adopting policies and procedures it deems appropriate for coursework, grade point
average, or credit hours for teacher preparation at institutions in The Oklahoma State
System of Higher Education.

B. The certification requirements for a certificate for superintendent of schools and
school principal shall include not less than:

1. Completion of a standard master's degree;

2. Completion of a program in education administration approved by the Oklahoma
Commission for Teacher Preparation with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction
and building-level leadership skills;

3. Such Any other professional education and requirements as may be fixed by the
State Board of Education;

4. A passing score on the subject area competency examination required in Section
6·187 of this title; and

5. A minimum of two (2) years' years of successful teaching, supervisory or
administrative experience in public or private schools accredited by the Board.

C. The certification requirements for a superintendent of schools shall include not
less than:

1. Certification as a school principal or completion of the certification requirements
for a school principal as set forth in subsection B of this section:
2. Completion of a program in education administration approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation with an emphasis on district-level leadership skills, and which shall include the following competencies:

   a. instructional leadership,
   b. organizational leadership, including education finance, education law, and risk management,
   c. collaborative and community leadership, and
   d. ethical leadership;

3. Any other professional education and requirements as may be fixed by the State Board of Education:

4. A passing score on the subject area competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

5. A minimum of two (2) years of administrative experience in public or private schools accredited by the Board.

D. 1. The standards for alternative certification for superintendents of schools and principals shall include:

   a. the completion of a standard master’s degree,
   b. two (2) years of relevant work experience in a supervisory or administrative capacity,
   c. a passing score on the subject area competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title, and
d. a declaration of the intention to earn standard certification through completion of an approved alternative administrative preparation program in not more than three (3) years. Participants shall have on file with the director of teacher education at an Oklahoma accredited institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard certification requirements within three (3) years. For the plan, relevant work experience and coursework may be considered and applied to reduce the number of hours needed to earn standard certification.

2. An alternative certificate for superintendent of schools and principals shall not exceed three (3) years and shall not be renewable.

3. Upon successful completion of an alternative administrative preparation program by a participant, the director of teacher education of an Oklahoma accredited institution of higher education shall make a recommendation for standard certification to the State Board of Education.

4. Any person participating in an alternative certification program for superintendent of schools and principals on the effective date of this act shall be subject to the program requirements in effect prior to the effective date of this act.

D. E. The certification requirements for a certificate for superintendent of a technology center school district shall include not less than a standard master’s degree, such any other professional education requirements as may be fixed by the State Board of Education, and a minimum of four (4) years teaching, supervisory or administrative
experience, which may include teaching of full-time adult students, in a technology center school district; provided, a. A person meeting the requirements set forth in subsection B C of this section shall be eligible for a certificate for superintendent of a technology center school district.

E. F. Certificates may be revoked by the State Board of Education for willful violation of any rule of the State Board of Education or of any federal or state law or other proper cause but only after sufficient hearing has been given before the State Board of Education.

E. G. Teaching in a Head Start program or programs shall be used for renewal of a standard teaching certificate.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2007.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 02-22-07 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.