

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2747

6 By: Denney

7 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

8 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
9 Section 6-122.3, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 82,
10 O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 6-122.3),
11 which relates to alternative teaching certification;
12 modifying certain reporting requirement; amending 70
13 O.S. 2001, Sections 6-185, as amended by Section 1,
14 Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003, 6-186 and 6-187, as last
15 amended by Section 2, Chapter 82, O.S.L. 2009 (70
16 O.S. Supp. 2009, Sections 6-185 and 6-187), which
17 relate to the Oklahoma teacher preparation system;
18 deleting requirement for an annual public forum by
19 each higher education institution; requiring an
20 annual report regarding public input on the teacher
21 education program; modifying faculty professional
22 development activity requirements; modifying
23 certification requirement for certain subject areas;
24 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, as
amended by Section 1, Chapter 82, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp. 2009,
Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an
2 alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes
3 application to the State Board and meets all of the following
4 criteria:

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

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

12 3. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by
13 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)
14 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject
15 matter of the professional education component of an alternative
16 placement program. The number of clock or semester hours required
17 for the professional education component of an alternative placement
18 program needed to qualify for standard certification shall be as
19 follows:

- 20 a. baccalaureate degree, eighteen (18) semester hours or
21 two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, ~~or~~
- 22 b. postbaccalaureate degree, twelve (12) semester hours
23 or one hundred eighty (180) clock hours ~~-, or~~ or
- 24

1 c. the State Board of Education shall establish a core
2 minimum of six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock
3 hours for the professional education component.

4 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
5 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
6 subsection E of this section;

7 4. Has passed the general education and subject area portions
8 of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this
9 title in the area of specialization for which certification is
10 sought; and

11 5. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
12 district in this state offering employment in the area of
13 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
14 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
15 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
16 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
17 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
18 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
19 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
20 of the certificate shall be considered a resident teacher for the
21 purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

22 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
23 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
24 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district

1 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
2 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
3 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
4 placement program.

5 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

6 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
7 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
8 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
9 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
10 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed
11 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
12 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

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

16 3. Participate in the Residency Program, established in Section
17 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
18 other resident teachers, except those persons who hold a
19 certificate; and

20 4. Except for persons participating in the federal Troops To
21 Teachers Program, document at least three (3) years of work
22 experience after completion of the baccalaureate degree which is
23 related to the subject area of specialization if the person has only
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1 a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related
2 area.

3 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
4 requirements for licensure and certification and, upon demonstration
5 by an individual of specific competency in the subject area of
6 specialization, may grant a license or certificate to the
7 individual. The State Board may establish other requirements
8 necessary to grant exceptions.

9 E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
10 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
11 for standard certification.

12 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
13 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
14 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
15 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be
16 limited to ninety (90) clock hours of classroom teaching per
17 semester.

18 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the ~~Office~~
19 ~~of Accountability~~ Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an
20 annual report of information as specified by the ~~Office of~~
21 ~~Accountability~~ Commission regarding participation in the alternative
22 placement programs offered by the Institution.

23 H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
24 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any

1 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in
2 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
3 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,
4 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
5 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
6 section to be:

7 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
8 qualification; and

9 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
10 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
11 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
12 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate.
13 Any person seeking standard certification through an alternative
14 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
15 during regular semesters if offered.

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

19 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-185, as
20 amended by Section 1, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2009,
21 Section 6-185), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 6-185. A. The following competencies and methods shall
23 be incorporated into the programs approved by the Oklahoma
24 Commission for Teacher Preparation for the competency-based teacher

1 preparation system provided for the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation
2 Act:

3 1. The teacher preparation system shall include, but not be
4 limited to, the following competencies:

- 5 a. excellence in the arts and sciences,
- 6 b. an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter to be
7 taught,
- 8 c. the ability to identify and cultivate talent and
9 potential in students,
- 10 d. an understanding of child and human development,
- 11 e. teaching skills developed through a variety of
12 learning experiences,
- 13 f. the ability to interact effectively with all students,
- 14 g. skills necessary for working with parents, guardians
15 and custodians of students in the education process,
- 16 h. skills necessary to involve the community in
17 education,
- 18 i. skills to foster teamwork within and among schools,
- 19 j. for administrators, skills necessary to be an
20 effective leader of a school or school district, and
- 21 k. skills in effective classroom management and student
22 discipline;

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1 2. The preservice program shall include the following methods
2 to achieve the competencies listed in paragraph 1 of this
3 subsection:

- 4 a. require teacher candidates to study arts and sciences
5 at the undergraduate level,
- 6 b. require secondary and elementary/secondary teacher
7 candidates to have undergraduate majors, or their
8 equivalents, in a subject area, and require teacher
9 candidates in early childhood, elementary, and special
10 education to have subject area concentrations which
11 allow qualification as a generalist,
- 12 c. require teacher candidates to study the individuality
13 of students, the capacity of students to learn and the
14 process of learning,
- 15 d. integrate curriculum from other disciplines with the
16 education curriculum,
- 17 e. require teacher candidates to have training
18 experiences and personal contact with parents,
19 guardians or custodians of school-age children,
- 20 f. require teacher candidates to have community
21 involvement experience,
- 22 g. structure courses so as to require teamwork
23 activities, and

1 h. require teacher candidates to study, in existing
2 coursework, substance abuse symptoms identification
3 and prevention, classroom management skills, and
4 classroom safety and discipline techniques;

5 3. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
6 require more than a four-year program of one hundred twenty-four
7 (124) semester hours to complete a teacher education degree.

8 Provided, any program approved by the State Board of Education prior
9 to July 1, 1995, which requires more hours may continue to require
10 such hours. Any program approved prior to July 1, 1995, which
11 requires more than one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours for
12 a teacher education degree shall implement requirements for this
13 program without additional hours.

14 B. It is the intent of the Legislature that institutions of
15 higher education which offer teacher education programs hold such
16 programs accountable for meeting the licensure and certification
17 competencies approved by the State Board of Education. It is the
18 intent of the Legislature that the teacher education programs
19 incorporate a curriculum to achieve the competency-based system and
20 include integration of the teacher preparation curricula with the
21 arts and sciences departments curricula. Each institution of higher
22 education which seeks accreditation or approval for its teacher
23 education program shall develop an institution plan which follows
24 the State Board of Education competencies for licensure and

1 certification. In developing such institution plans, the higher
2 education institution shall establish a process which seeks
3 information and input from teacher preparation faculty, faculty from
4 arts and sciences and other programs and disciplines which are
5 appropriate, students within the teacher education program,
6 teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or custodians of
7 students and business and community leaders. Each institution shall
8 ~~hold an annual public forum subject to the provisions of the~~
9 ~~Oklahoma Open Meeting Act~~ report annually to the Oklahoma Commission
10 for Teacher Preparation the procedures used to inform the public
11 ~~regarding the content of the institution plan at which public~~
12 ~~comment on either the institution's teacher preparation plan or~~
13 education program and the manner through which public input is
14 solicited and received. The institution's plan shall be accessible
15 to any interested party under the Oklahoma Open Records Act. No
16 institution of higher education's teacher education program shall be
17 approved by the Commission unless the institution plan has been
18 approved by that institution's governing board. Initial institution
19 plans shall be filed with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
20 Preparation by January 1, 1997, and as required by the Commission
21 thereafter. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may
22 facilitate the development of institution plans to assist
23 institutions of higher education.

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1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-186, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 6-186. A. Criteria for the approval and accreditation
4 of teacher education programs in Oklahoma institutions of higher
5 education shall include, but not be limited to, substantial evidence
6 that persons who enter teacher education programs demonstrate:

7 1. Competency in the oral and written use of the English
8 language;

9 2. A minimum grade point average as established by the Oklahoma
10 Commission for Teacher Preparation; and

11 3. The ability to meet criteria established pursuant to the
12 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act at the completion of the teacher
13 education program and provide evidence of having worked with
14 children or youth in a variety of situations.

15 Criteria shall also include a greater emphasis upon field work
16 in accredited schools by prospective teachers under the supervision
17 of higher education faculty.

18 B. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature
19 that the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation work with the
20 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various
21 institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby
22 full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional
23 development during their tenure at an institution of higher
24 education to ensure that the future teachers of this state are

1 taught by professional educators fully trained in their area of
2 expertise. Each approved or accredited program of teacher education
3 shall have a ~~teacher education~~ system for documenting and reporting
4 the annual professional development ~~committee that shall include at~~
5 ~~least one public school classroom teacher as a member.~~ The
6 ~~committee shall write and review professional development plans for~~
7 ~~each full-time~~ activities of all teacher education faculty member
8 ~~directly involved in the teacher education process~~ members.
9 ~~Individual~~ Faculty professional development ~~plans~~ reports shall be
10 ~~submitted to~~ reviewed by the Commission along with professional
11 development activities as a normal part of the ~~five-year~~
12 accreditation process ~~of teacher education program review.~~

13 It is further declared to be the intent of the Legislature that
14 such professional development plans provide alternative means of
15 education including, but not limited to:

- 16 1. Professional development programs;
- 17 2. Higher education courses;
- 18 3. Exchange programs with public school classroom teachers,
19 administrators, and other school personnel; and
- 20 4. Programs whereby all full-time teacher education faculty
21 members directly involved in the teacher education process,
22 including all administrators of the teacher education program, are
23 required to serve in a state accredited public school for at least
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1 ten (10) clock hours per school year in responsibilities related to
2 their respective teacher education teaching fields.

3 All public school systems shall participate in the programs
4 provided for in this subsection when needed.

5 C. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall adopt
6 rules requiring specific improvements to strengthen the screening of
7 student applicants and field activity and placement as set out in
8 subsection A of this section. Such rules shall be reviewed and
9 amended or readopted by the Commission at least once every five (5)
10 years.

11 D. To assist the Commission in setting specific requirements as
12 set out in subsections A and C of this section, the Commission shall
13 annually prepare a statistical report showing the percentage of
14 students from each of the Oklahoma institutions of higher education
15 who have successfully completed or who have failed the competency
16 examination for licensure and certification. The annual report
17 shall show the percentages for each institution of higher education
18 and each assessment area separately by student degree status and
19 shall be distributed annually to each member of the Oklahoma
20 Commission for Teacher Preparation, the Oklahoma State Regents for
21 Higher Education, the governing board of each institution which has
22 an approved or state accredited teacher education program, the State
23 Board of Education, the State Board of Career and Technology
24 Education and the Legislature.

1 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as
2 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 82, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp.
3 2009, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 6-187. A. A competency examination shall be adopted by
5 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the general
6 education, professional education and various subject areas and
7 grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and
8 competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area
9 the person is seeking licensure or certification to teach which
10 shall also include licensure or certification as an administrator,
11 as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

12 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
13 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
14 confidentiality of examinations.

15 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until
16 successfully completing the competency examination except those
17 candidates who make application to the State Board and meet the
18 criteria for the Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section
19 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to areas of
20 approval in which the licensed or certified teacher has successfully
21 completed the examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection
22 C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in which a
23 teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment
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1 or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject
2 area test.

3 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
4 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
5 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

6 C. 1. Except as herein otherwise provided for in this
7 subsection, a teacher may be certified in as many areas as the
8 teacher meets the necessary requirements provided by law and has
9 successfully completed the subject area portion of the examination.

10 2. Certification in ~~early childhood~~, elementary, ~~or special~~
11 education shall require completion of an ~~appropriate~~ elementary
12 education degree from a teacher education program approved by the
13 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, meeting the
14 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
15 appropriate subject area portion of the examination.

16 3. Certification in early childhood education shall require
17 completion of an early childhood education degree from an early
18 childhood program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
19 Preparation, meeting the requirements provided in law and successful
20 completion of the appropriate subject area portion of the
21 examination.

22 4. Certification in special education shall require meeting the
23 requirements provided in law, successful completion of the
24 appropriate subject area portion of the examination, and:

1 a. completion of an education degree specific to the
2 instruction of students in need of special education
3 from a teacher education program approved by the
4 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation,

5 b. completion of an education degree from a teacher
6 education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission
7 for Teacher Preparation, or

8 c. completion of the Troops to Teachers program.

9 5. Any teacher who became certified to teach elementary
10 education prior to November 1, 2010, may be certified in early
11 childhood education upon meeting the requirements provided in law
12 and successful completion of the appropriate subject area portion of
13 the examination. Any teacher who became certified to teach early
14 childhood education prior to November 1, 2010, may be certified in
15 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law
16 and successful completion of the appropriate subject area portion of
17 the examination.

18 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
19 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
20 Commission.

21 E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
22 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
23 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
24 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district

1 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
2 provisional or standard certificate or who is licensed in the
3 teaching profession. In the event a district is unable to hire an
4 individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document
5 efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard
6 certificate or with a license in another curricular area with
7 academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these
8 alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to
9 employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the
10 State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

11 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

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