

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 9, 2009

House Bill No. 1333

HOUSE BILL NO. 1333 - By: DENNEY AND COODY of the House and COATES of the Senate.

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-122.3, which relates to alternative placement teaching certificate; clarifying statutory language; requiring certain minimum grade point average; deleting authorization for reduction of certain education component; directing the State Board of Education to establish certain core minimum education component; increasing certain minimum professional education component; deleting certain definitions; updating statutory language; updating certain entity responsible for certain duties; modifying eligibility requirements for an alternative placement program; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 236, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 6-187), which relates to competency examinations; requiring 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:

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-122.3, is amended to
2 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

- 13 a. baccalaureate degree, ~~and~~ eighteen (18) semester hours or two
14 hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or
- 15 b. postbaccalaureate ~~degrees~~ degree, ~~teaching experience or subject~~
16 ~~matter work experience, or a combination of the three shall reduce the~~
17 ~~eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours~~
18 ~~by the following:~~

Degree or Experience	Hour Reduction
Master's Degree	6 semester hours or 90 clock hours
Doctorate Degree	6 semester hours or

1 90 clock hours

2 ~~1 year teaching or subject matter~~

3 ~~work experience~~ ~~3 semester hours or~~

4 ~~45 clock hours~~

5 ~~2 years teaching or subject matter~~

6 ~~work experience~~ ~~6 semester hours or~~

7 ~~90 clock hours~~

8 ~~3 years teaching or subject matter~~

9 ~~work experience~~ ~~9 semester hours or~~

10 ~~135 clock hours~~

11 ~~4 years teaching or subject matter~~

12 ~~work experience~~ twelve (12)

13 semester hours

14 or one hundred eighty (180) clock hours;

15 c. the State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six (6)

16 semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours for the professional

17 education component. ~~Under no circumstance shall the number of~~

18 ~~hours be reduced to less than six (6) semester hours or ninety (90)~~

19 ~~clock hours.~~

20 d. for purposes of this section:

21 (1) ~~"teaching experience" shall mean full-time employment as a~~

22 ~~teacher in a public school, private school licensed or accredited~~

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

1 by the ~~State Board of Education, or institution of higher~~
2 education,

3 (2) ~~"subject matter work experience" shall mean work experience in~~
4 ~~a field that corresponds to the area of specialization for~~
5 ~~Elementary-Secondary Certificate, Secondary Certificate or~~
6 ~~vocational-technical certificate.~~

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

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

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

21 B. ~~Said~~ An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be renewed for not more
22 than a maximum of three (3) years upon presentation of a document from an accredited

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

5 C. Persons enrolled in an ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative placement
6 program shall:

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

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

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

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

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

6 E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience shall not be
7 required of ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative placement program participants
8 for ~~Standard Certification~~ standard certification.

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

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

17 H. The ~~State Board of Education~~ Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation
18 shall not accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any teacher education
19 program of any institution of higher education in this state that has not ~~made a~~
20 ~~commitment to, and begun implementation of,~~ Alternative Placement Programs
21 implemented alternative placement programs in at least four areas of specialization,

1 including mathematics, science and a foreign language, ~~whereby.~~ Each institution shall
2 allow individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this section are to be:
3 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further qualification; and
4 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the ~~Standard Certification course~~
5 requirements for standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section during the
6 summer preceding and the summer following the first year of teaching ~~under the~~
7 ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ with an alternative placement teaching certificate.
8 ~~Provided, however, any~~ Any person seeking ~~Alternative Placement~~ standard certification
9 through an alternative placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
10 during regular semesters if offered.

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

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as amended by
14 Section 2, Chapter 236, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 6-187), is amended to
15 read as follows:

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

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

3 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until successfully completing
4 the competency examination except those candidates who make application to the State
5 Board and meet the criteria for the Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section
6 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to areas of approval in which the
7 licensed or certified teacher has successfully completed the examination. ~~Testing Subject~~
8 to the provisions of subsection C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in
9 which a teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an
10 endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

11 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education, professional
12 education or subject area portions of the examination subject to any limit imposed by the
13 Commission.

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

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

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

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

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02-05-09
12 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.