

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 26, 2009

Committee Substitute for
House Bill No. 1581

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1581 - By: COODY, KERN AND SHUMATE of the House.

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 4, Chapter 431, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508F), which relates to training for teachers of students with reading difficulties; requiring certain institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to incorporate into certain teaching programs the study of certain reading instruction elements; requiring certain teacher candidates to pass an assessment of reading instruction skills; specifying skills to be measured in the assessment; requiring institutions to report results of the assessment on an annual report; directing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to include the data in certain annual report; stating legislative intent; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 431, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S.
2 Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508F), is amended to read as follows:

3 Section 1210.508F A. The State Board of Education shall ensure that the reading
4 competencies for elementary teachers are included in the competencies for special
5 education teachers.

6 B. The State Board of Education and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
7 Preparation in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
8 shall ensure that all teachers of early childhood education, elementary education, and

1 special education are provided quality training in intervention, instruction, and
2 remediation strategies in order to meet the needs of students in kindergarten through
3 third grade who are determined to be at risk of reading difficulties.

4 C. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, all institutions within The Oklahoma
5 State System of Higher Education that offer elementary, early childhood education, or
6 special education programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
7 Preparation shall incorporate into those programs the requirement that teacher
8 candidates study the five elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness,
9 phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

10 D. Effective July 1, 2010, teacher candidates enrolled in an institution within The
11 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in an elementary, early childhood
12 education, or special education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for
13 Teacher Preparation shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive assessment to
14 measure their teaching skills in the area of reading instruction. The assessment shall be
15 developed and administered by the institutions that offer elementary, early childhood
16 education, or special education programs that lead to certification. The assessment shall
17 measure the knowledge and understanding of the teacher candidate in the teaching of
18 the five elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading
19 fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The results of the assessment shall be reported
20 annually by the institution to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation as a
21 part of the required annual report for the institution. The Commission shall include the
22 data in the annual report to the Oklahoma Legislature as required pursuant to Section 6-

1 186 of this title. It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that teachers graduating
2 from institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education have the
3 knowledge and skills to effectively teach reading to all children.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

5 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
6 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof
7 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER
9 TECH, dated 02-25-09 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.