

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 16, 2009

Committee Substitute for
House Bill No. 2004

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2004 - By: WRIGHT (HAROLD)
AND MCDANIEL (JEANNIE) of the House.

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-185, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 6-185), which relates to competencies and methods to be incorporated into teacher preparation system; adding mental health training; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-100.1, which relates to prevention of violence services; requiring certain mental health issues professional development training for certain school employees; authorizing certain school employees to make mental health referrals for students; providing for liability; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-185, as amended by
2 Section 1, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 6-185), is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 Section 6-185. A. The following competencies and methods shall be incorporated
5 into the programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for
6 the competency-based teacher preparation system provided for the Oklahoma Teacher
7 Preparation Act:

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

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

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

- 16 a. require teacher candidates to study arts and sciences at the
- 17 undergraduate level,
- 18 b. require secondary and elementary/secondary teacher candidates to
- 19 have undergraduate majors, or their equivalents, in a subject area, and
- 20 require teacher candidates in early childhood, elementary, and special
- 21 education to have subject area concentrations which allow qualification
- 22 as a generalist,

- 1 c. require teacher candidates to study the individuality of students, the
2 capacity of students to learn and the process of learning,
3 d. integrate curriculum from other disciplines with the education
4 curriculum,
5 e. require teacher candidates to have training experiences and personal
6 contact with parents, guardians or custodians of school-age children,
7 f. require teacher candidates to have community involvement experience,
8 g. structure courses so as to require teamwork activities, and
9 h. require teacher candidates to study, in existing coursework, substance
10 abuse symptoms identification and prevention, mental illness
11 symptoms identification and mental health issues, classroom
12 management skills, and classroom safety and discipline techniques;

13 3. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not require more than
14 a four-year program of one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours to complete a
15 teacher education degree. Provided, any program approved by the State Board of
16 Education prior to July 1, 1995, which requires more hours may continue to require such
17 hours. Any program approved prior to July 1, 1995, which requires more than one
18 hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours for a teacher education degree shall
19 implement requirements for this program without additional hours.

20 B. It is the intent of the Legislature that institutions of higher education which
21 offer teacher education programs hold such programs accountable for meeting the
22 licensure and certification competencies approved by the State Board of Education. It is

1 the intent of the Legislature that the teacher education programs incorporate a
2 curriculum to achieve the competency-based system and include integration of the
3 teacher preparation curricula with the arts and sciences departments curricula. Each
4 institution of higher education which seeks accreditation or approval for its teacher
5 education program shall develop an institution plan which follows the State Board of
6 Education competencies for licensure and certification. In developing such institution
7 plans, the higher education institution shall establish a process which seeks information
8 and input from teacher preparation faculty, faculty from arts and sciences and other
9 programs and disciplines which are appropriate, students within the teacher education
10 program, teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or custodians of students and
11 business and community leaders. Each institution shall ~~hold an annual public forum~~
12 ~~subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act regarding~~ report annually to
13 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation the procedure used to notify the
14 public of the content of the institution plan at which public comment on either the
15 institution's their teacher preparation plan or education program is solicited and to
16 receive public input. The institution's plan shall be accessible to any interested party
17 under the Oklahoma Open Records Act. No institution of higher education's teacher
18 education program shall be approved by the Commission unless the institution plan has
19 been approved by that institution's governing board. Initial institution plans shall be
20 filed with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation by January 1, 1997, and as
21 required by the Commission thereafter. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher

1 Education may facilitate the development of institution plans to assist institutions of
2 higher education.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-100.1, is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Section 24-100.1 A. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage and assist the
6 public schools of this state to address school violence through an emphasis on prevention.
7 Preventative services shall be encouraged through greater access to mental health
8 counseling and social services for students. In order to make licensed professional
9 counselors and licensed social workers more available and accessible on site, school
10 districts may:

11 1. Contract with and allocate space for nonprofit agencies or other community-
12 based service providers for the appropriate personnel and services; and

13 2. Seek any available funding, including the use of Medicaid funds for students who
14 are Medicaid eligible through targeted case management, and any other funding which
15 may be available for related services; ~~and~~

16 ~~3. Encourage the State Board of Education to allow for the use of licensed~~
17 ~~professional counselors and licensed social workers in addition to academic counselors.~~

18 B. School administrators and teachers shall be required to complete a minimum of
19 three (3) hours of professional development training in mental illness symptoms
20 identification and mental health issues at least one time every two (2) years. The
21 professional development training shall be provided by the Department of Mental Health
22 and Substance Abuse Services, a county health department, a community mental health

1 center, or by a mental health service provider or organization that is approved to provide
2 the training by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

3 C. School administrators and teachers may make referrals or assist in referring
4 students to licensed mental health professionals for mental health screening or
5 treatment. A school administrator or teacher shall incur no liability as a result of injury
6 arising from any acts or omissions of the school administrator or teacher in referring or
7 failing to refer a student as provided for in this subsection.

8 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

9 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
10 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof
11 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02-12-09
13 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.