

EHB 1581

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**THE STATE SENATE**  
Wednesday, April 1, 2009

**ENGROSSED**

**House Bill No. 1581**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1581 - By: Coody, Kern, Shumate and Tibbs of the House and Jolley of the Senate.

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:

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

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

B. The State Board of Education and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall ensure that all teachers of early

(Bold face denotes Committee Amendments)

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

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

14 D. Effective July 1, 2010, teacher candidates enrolled in an  
15 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in  
16 an elementary, early childhood education, or special education  
17 program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation  
18 shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive assessment to  
19 measure their teaching skills in the area of reading instruction.  
20 The assessment shall be developed and administered by the  
21 institutions that offer elementary, early childhood education, or  
22 special education programs that lead to certification. The  
23 assessment shall measure the knowledge and understanding of the

1 teacher candidate in the teaching of the five elements of reading  
2 instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency,  
3 vocabulary, and comprehension. The results of the assessment shall  
4 be reported annually by the institution to the Oklahoma Commission  
5 for Teacher Preparation as a part of the required annual report for  
6 the institution. The Commission shall include the data in the  
7 annual report to the Oklahoma Legislature as required pursuant to  
8 Section 6-186 of this title. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
9 ensure that teachers graduating from institutions within The  
10 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education have the knowledge and  
11 skills to effectively teach reading to all children.

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

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

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 3-30-09 - DO  
18 PASS.