

3 Senate Bill No. 971

4 SENATE BILL NO. 971 - By: Sparks of the Senate and Schwartz of the  
5 House.

6 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section  
7 6-194, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 399, O.S.L.  
8 2008 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 6-194), which relates to  
9 district professional development programs; requiring  
10 programs to allow certain personnel to participate in  
11 certain training; providing an effective date; and declaring  
12 an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-194, as  
15 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 399, O.S.L. 2008 (70 O.S. Supp.  
16 2008, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this  
18 state shall establish professional development programs for the  
19 certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district.  
20 Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations  
21 of a professional development committee appointed by the board of  
22 education for the district.

23 B. Each professional development committee shall include  
24 classroom teachers, administrators and parents, guardians or  
25 custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with  
26 a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the  
27 professional development committee shall be composed of classroom

1 teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated  
2 administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted  
3 by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall  
4 be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the  
5 district. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee  
6 shall include at least one school counselor in its membership.

7 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional  
8 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach  
9 to analyze student data and determine district and school  
10 professional development needs. The professional development  
11 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of  
12 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum  
13 areas for the following goals:

- 14 1. Increasing the academic performance index scores for the  
15 district and each school site;
- 16 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
- 17 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-  
18 mandated tests and the ACT;
- 19 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and
- 20 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

21 D. 1. Each program may also include components on classroom  
22 management and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents,  
23 guardians or custodians of students, special education, and racial

1 and ethnic education, which all personnel defined as teachers in  
2 Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete on a  
3 periodic basis.

4 2. The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to  
5 assist school districts in developing and implementing racial and  
6 ethnic education components into professional development programs.

7 3. At least once a year a program shall be offered which  
8 includes a component of teacher training on recognition and  
9 reporting of child abuse and neglect which all teachers shall be  
10 required to complete. ~~Additionally at~~

11 4. At least one time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010  
12 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all  
13 resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through  
14 grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during  
15 the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years  
16 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals  
17 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be  
18 required to complete the autism training at least one time every  
19 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum  
20 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources  
21 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to  
22 challenging behavior.

1        5. Each ~~adopted~~ program shall allow school counselors to  
2 receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or credit required  
3 each year through programs or courses specifically designed for  
4 school counselors.

5        6. Each program shall allow related services personnel, as  
6 identified in the policies and procedures for special education by  
7 the State Department of Education, to be provided the opportunity to  
8 participate in training applicable to their field that will enable  
9 them to maintain professional licensure.

10        E. Districts are authorized to utilize any means for  
11 professional development that is not prohibited by law including,  
12 but not limited to, professional development provided by the  
13 district, any state agency, institution of higher education, or any  
14 private entity.

15        ~~D.~~ F. Each licensed or certified teacher in this state shall be  
16 required by the district board of education to meet the professional  
17 development requirements established by the board, or established  
18 through the negotiation process. Provided, the professional  
19 development requirements established by each board of education  
20 shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum number of  
21 the total number of points required to maintain employment. Failure  
22 of any teacher to meet district board of education professional  
23 development requirements may be grounds for nonrenewal of such

1 teacher's contract by the board. Such failure may also be grounds  
2 for nonconsideration of salary increments affecting the teacher.

3 ~~F.~~ G. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State  
4 Department of Education on the district level professional  
5 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results  
6 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection  
7 C of this section.

8 ~~F.~~ H. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department  
9 shall develop an online system for reporting as required in  
10 subsection ~~F~~ G of this section. The Department shall also make such  
11 information available on its website.

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 2-16-09 - DO  
18 PASS, As Coauthored.