

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1581

By: Coody

4  
5 AS INTRODUCED

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7 An Act relating to schools; amending Section 4,  
8 Chapter 431, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section  
9 1210.508F), which relates to training for teachers of  
10 students with reading difficulties; requiring certain  
11 institutions within The Oklahoma State System of  
12 Higher Education to incorporate into certain teaching  
13 programs the study of certain reading instruction  
14 elements; requiring certain teacher candidates to  
15 pass an examination of reading instruction skills;  
16 specifying skills to be assessed in the examination;  
17 requiring institutions to report results of the  
18 examination on an annual report; directing the  
19 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to  
20 include the data in certain annual report; stating  
21 legislative intent; providing an effective date; and  
22 declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

1 B. The State Board of Education and the Oklahoma Commission for  
2 Teacher Preparation in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents  
3 for Higher Education shall ensure that all teachers of early  
4 childhood education, elementary education, and special education are  
5 provided quality training in intervention, instruction, and  
6 remediation strategies in order to meet the needs of students in  
7 kindergarten through third grade who are determined to be at risk of  
8 reading difficulties.

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

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

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

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

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

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