

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1570

By: Sparks

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school employee professional
8 development programs; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section
9 6-194, which relates to district professional
10 development programs; requiring programs to allow
11 certain training for maintenance of professional
12 certification; allowing for professional leave for
13 certain employees; providing an effective date; and
14 declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this
19 state shall establish professional development programs for the
20 certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district.
21 Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations
22 of a professional development committee appointed by the board of
23 education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30,
24 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may
elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for
certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district.

1 If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional
2 development program, the district may expend any monies allocated
3 for professional development for any purpose related to the support
4 and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of
5 education of the school district.

6 B. Each professional development committee shall include
7 classroom teachers, administrators and parents, guardians or
8 custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with
9 a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the
10 professional development committee shall be composed of classroom
11 teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated
12 administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted
13 by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall
14 be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the
15 district. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee
16 shall include at least one school counselor in its membership.

17 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional
18 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach
19 to analyze student data and determine district and school
20 professional development needs. The professional development
21 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of
22 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum
23 areas for the following goals:
24

1 1. Increasing the academic performance index scores for the
2 district and each school site;

3 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

4 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-
5 mandated tests and the ACT;

6 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

7 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

8 D. 1. Each program may also include components on classroom
9 management and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents,
10 guardians or custodians of students, special education, and racial
11 and ethnic education, which all personnel defined as teachers in
12 Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete on a
13 periodic basis.

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

17 3. At least once a year a program shall be offered which
18 includes a component of teacher training on recognition and
19 reporting of child abuse and neglect which all teachers shall be
20 required to complete. Additionally at least one time per year,
21 beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, training in the area of
22 autism shall be offered and all resident teachers of students in
23 early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to
24 complete the autism training during the resident year and at least

1 one time every three (3) years thereafter. All other teachers and
2 education support professionals of students in early childhood
3 programs through grade three shall be required to complete the
4 autism training at least one time every three (3) years. The autism
5 training shall include a minimum awareness of the characteristics of
6 autistic children, resources available and an introduction to
7 positive behavior supports to challenging behavior.

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

12 5. Each program shall allow related services personnel, as
13 identified in the policies and procedures for special education by
14 the State Department of Education, to be provided the opportunity to
15 participate in training applicable to their field that will enable
16 them to maintain professional licensure. For related services
17 personnel, school districts shall allow not more than thirty (30)
18 hours above the professional development hours required by the
19 school district each school year to be used to participate in
20 training applicable to their field as provided in this paragraph.
21 Subject to school district policy or a collective bargaining
22 agreement, school districts may grant additional professional leave
23 time for individual employees for training applicable to their field
24 as provided in this paragraph.

1 E. Districts are authorized to utilize any means for
2 professional development that is not prohibited by law including,
3 but not limited to, professional development provided by the
4 district, any state agency, institution of higher education, or any
5 private entity.

6 ~~D.~~ F. Except as otherwise provided ~~for~~ in this subsection, each
7 licensed or certified teacher in this state shall be required by the
8 district board of education to meet the professional development
9 requirements established by the board, or established through the
10 negotiation process. Except as otherwise provided ~~for~~ in this
11 subsection, the professional development requirements established by
12 each board of education shall require every teacher to annually
13 complete a minimum number of the total number of points required to
14 maintain employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board
15 of education professional development requirements may be grounds
16 for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such
17 failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary
18 increments affecting the teacher. For the fiscal years ending June
19 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a licensed or certified teacher shall
20 not be required to complete any points of the total number of
21 professional development points required. Provided, a teacher may
22 elect to complete some or all of the minimum number of points
23 required for the two (2) fiscal years and any points completed shall
24 be counted toward the total number of points required to maintain

1 employment. If a teacher does not complete some or all of the
2 minimum number of points required for one (1) or both fiscal years,
3 the total number of points required to maintain employment shall be
4 adjusted and reduced by the number of points not completed.

5 ~~E.~~ G. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State
6 Department of Education on the district level professional
7 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results
8 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection
9 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and
10 offer a professional development program as provided ~~for~~ in
11 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to
12 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but
13 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not
14 to offer a program and all professional development activities
15 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

16 ~~F.~~ H. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department
17 shall develop an online system for reporting as required in
18 subsection ~~E~~ G of this section. The Department shall also make such
19 information available on its website.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2012.

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

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