

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1648

By: Fields

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70  
8 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, which relates to  
9 alternative placement teaching certificate; requiring  
10 certain certificates include a notification of the  
11 method in which the certificate was earned; providing  
12 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 6-122.3. A. The State Board of Education shall grant  
17 an alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes  
18 application to the Board and meets all of the following criteria:

19 1. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution  
20 whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for  
21 Higher Education and has attained a cumulative grade point average  
22 of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale;

23 2. Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area  
24 of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a  
Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical certificate;

1       3. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by  
2 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)  
3 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject  
4 matter of the professional education component of an alternative  
5 placement program. The number of clock or semester hours required  
6 for the professional education component of an alternative placement  
7 program needed to qualify for standard certification shall be as  
8 follows:

- 9           a. baccalaureate degree, eighteen (18) semester hours or  
10           two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or
- 11           b. postbaccalaureate degree, twelve (12) semester hours  
12           or one hundred eighty (180) clock hours.

13 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six  
14 (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours for the professional  
15 education component.

16       The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all  
17 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of  
18 subsection E of this section;

19       4. Has passed the general education and subject area portions  
20 of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this  
21 title in the area of specialization for which certification is  
22 sought; and

23       5. Either presents a document from an accredited public school  
24 district in this state offering employment in the area of

1 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that  
2 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by  
3 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek  
4 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in  
5 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection  
6 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the  
7 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder  
8 of the certificate shall be considered a resident teacher for the  
9 purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

10 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be  
11 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon  
12 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district  
13 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of  
14 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution  
15 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative  
16 placement program.

17 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

18 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education  
19 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,  
20 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the  
21 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher  
22 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed  
23 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of  
24 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

1           2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an  
2 Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard  
3 certification requirements within three (3) years;

4           3. Participate in the Residency Program, established in Section  
5 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as  
6 other resident teachers, except those persons who hold a  
7 certificate; and

8           4. Except for persons participating in the federal Troops To  
9 Teachers Program, document at least two (2) years of work experience  
10 which is related to the subject area of specialization if the person  
11 has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a  
12 related area.

13           D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the  
14 requirements for licensure and certification and, upon demonstration  
15 by an individual of specific competency in the subject area of  
16 specialization, may grant a license or certificate to the  
17 individual. The State Board may establish other requirements  
18 necessary to grant exceptions.

19           E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience  
20 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants  
21 for standard certification.

22           F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
23 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished  
24 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be

1 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be  
2 limited to ninety (90) clock hours of classroom teaching per  
3 semester.

4 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the  
5 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of  
6 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation  
7 in the alternative placement programs offered by the Institution.

8 H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not  
9 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any  
10 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in  
11 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs  
12 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,  
13 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow  
14 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this  
15 section to be:

16 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further  
17 qualification; and

18 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for  
19 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section  
20 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year  
21 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate.

22 Any person seeking standard certification through an alternative  
23 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses  
24 during regular semesters if offered.

1 I. The criteria specified in subsection H of this section can  
2 be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more  
3 institutions of higher education.

4 J. The State Department of Education shall ensure that all  
5 alternative placement teaching certificates include a conspicuous  
6 notation on the face of the certificate indicating that the  
7 certificate was earned through an alternative placement program and  
8 is not a standard teaching certificate.

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

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

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