

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

3 SENATE BILL 376

By: Paddack

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to teacher professional development;
9 amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-192, which relates
10 to legislative intent; modifying the legislative
11 intent of professional development; amending 70 O.S.
12 2001, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 1,
13 Chapter 455, O.S.L. 2010 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section
14 6-194), which relates to school district professional
15 development; modifying the professional development
16 requirements for school districts and teachers;
17 providing an effective date; and declaring an
18 emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-192, is
amended to read as follows:

Section 6-192. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the
Legislature to establish a professional development procedure
whereby all teachers in the state continue their education beyond
initial licensing and certification by the state to ensure that the
children of the state are taught by professional educators, fully

1 prepared in their areas of expertise. Professional development
2 shall be focused on enhancing student achievement through providing
3 teachers with the skills and knowledge necessary to improve student
4 learning. Furthermore, such professional development procedure
5 shall provide alternative means of education, including one or more
6 of the following: In-service programs, higher education courses, or
7 other alternative means of education designed to help teachers
8 enrich their professional abilities.

9 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-194, as
10 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 455, O.S.L. 2010 (70 O.S. Supp.
11 2010, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

12 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this
13 state shall establish professional development programs for the
14 certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district.
15 Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations
16 of a professional development committee appointed by the board of
17 education for the district.

18 B. Each professional development committee shall include
19 classroom teachers, administrators and parents, guardians or
20 custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with
21 a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the
22 professional development committee shall be composed of classroom
23 teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated
24 administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted

1 by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall
2 be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the
3 district. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee
4 shall include at least one school counselor in its membership. The
5 professional development committee shall approve individual school
6 site professional development plans for each school in the district.
7 Each school site shall have the flexibility to design a data-driven
8 development plan which is tailored to address the specific needs of
9 their school. Professional development in core curriculum areas, in
10 which the teacher instructs, shall be a minimum of thirty (30) hours
11 obtained in a twenty-four-month period and shall be aligned with
12 current research in National Staff Development.

13 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional
14 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach
15 to analyze student data and determine district and school
16 professional development needs. Teachers will be provided
17 professional development in the interpretation and use of data to
18 inform instruction. The professional development programs adopted
19 shall be research based and directed toward development of
20 competencies and instructional strategies ~~in the core curriculum~~
21 ~~areas for the following goals~~ and shall be aligned with the Student
22 Common Core Standards. The following curriculum areas will be
23 emphasized:

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- 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 Each program may also include components on classroom management
9 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or
10 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic
11 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116
12 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis.
13 The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist
14 school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic
15 education components into professional development programs. At
16 least once a year a program shall be offered which includes a
17 component of teacher training on recognition and reporting of child
18 abuse and neglect which all teachers shall be required to complete.
19 Additionally at least one time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010
20 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all
21 resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through
22 grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during
23 the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years
24 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals

1 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be
2 required to complete the autism training at least one time every
3 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum
4 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources
5 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to
6 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school
7 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or
8 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically
9 designed for school counselors.

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

14 D. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each
15 licensed or certified teacher in this state shall be required by the
16 district board of education to meet the professional development
17 requirements established by the board, or established through the
18 negotiation process. Except as otherwise provided for in this
19 subsection, the professional development requirements established by
20 each board of education shall require every teacher to annually
21 complete a minimum number of the total number of points required to
22 maintain employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board
23 of education professional development requirements may be grounds
24 for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such

1 failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary
2 increments affecting the teacher. For the fiscal years ending June
3 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a licensed or certified teacher shall
4 not be required to complete any points of the total number of
5 professional development points required. Provided, a teacher may
6 elect to complete some or all of the minimum number of points
7 required for the two (2) fiscal years and any points completed shall
8 be counted toward the total number of points required to maintain
9 employment. If a teacher does not complete some or all of the
10 minimum number of points required for one (1) or both fiscal years,
11 the total number of points required to maintain employment shall be
12 adjusted and reduced by the number of points not completed.

13 E. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State
14 Department of Education on the district level professional
15 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results
16 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection
17 C of this section.

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

22 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2011.

23 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

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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