

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 978

By: Myers and Jolley of the  
Senate

4 and

5  
6 Sears and Martin (Scott) of  
the House

7  
8  
9 AS INTRODUCED

10 An Act relating to teacher professional development;  
11 amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-200, as last amended  
12 by Section 1, Chapter 94, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp.  
13 2010, Section 6-200), which relates to professional  
14 development institutes; giving the State Department  
15 of Education certain authority; transferring certain  
16 duties and powers from the Oklahoma Commission for  
17 Teacher Preparation to the State Department of  
18 Education; authorizing the State Department of  
19 Education to enter into certain contracts; and  
20 declaring an emergency.

21  
22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-200, as  
24 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 94, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp.  
2010, Section 6-200), is amended to read as follows:

25 Section 6-200. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the  
26 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ State Department of  
27 Education shall have authority to develop and administer training

1 for residency committees and training for professional development  
2 through professional development institutes. Included in the  
3 professional development institutes training shall be technology  
4 training. Professional development institutes shall be accepted by  
5 the State Board of Education for professional development purposes  
6 and shall be defined as continuing education experiences which  
7 consist of a minimum of thirty (30) clock hours. The institutes  
8 shall be competency-based, emphasize effective learning practices,  
9 require collaboration among participants, and require each  
10 participant to prepare a work product which can be utilized in the  
11 classroom by the participant. Any state professional development  
12 ~~institutes~~ institute administered by the ~~Commission~~ Department shall  
13 be chosen through a competitive bid process and, if funds are  
14 available, subject to peer review. The ~~Commission~~ Department, prior  
15 to offering any professional development institute, shall promulgate  
16 rules related to administering state professional development  
17 institutes.

18 B. The ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ State  
19 Department of Education shall develop, offer and administer  
20 professional development institutes to train elementary school  
21 teachers in reading education and if funds are available, which may  
22 include but not be limited to grant, foundation, or other funds, to  
23 train middle school teachers in reading education. Funds  
24 appropriated for this purpose shall be used for the cost of

1 developing, administering and contracting for the professional  
2 development institutes. When possible, certified reading  
3 specialists shall be included as consultants. All costs of the  
4 institutes shall be included in the contract price and no tuition or  
5 registration fee shall be collected from teachers attending the  
6 institutes. The institutes shall be offered by or through the  
7 ~~Commission~~ Department. ~~Working in conjunction with the State~~  
8 ~~Department of Education, the Commission~~ The Department shall develop  
9 a state plan for administration of such institutes and shall report  
10 on or before November 1 of each year to the Governor and the  
11 Legislature on the format of and participation in the institutes.  
12 The State Department of Education shall cooperate with and provide  
13 any information requested, including data available through the  
14 state student record system, to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
15 Preparation or other vendor as is necessary to carry out the  
16 provisions of this section.

17 C. Subject to the availability of funds, the ~~Oklahoma~~  
18 ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ State Department of Education  
19 shall:

20 1. Contract for an independent evaluation of the reading  
21 professional development institutes. The evaluation shall determine  
22 adherence to program requirements as provided in this section and  
23 the program's effectiveness in increasing teacher knowledge and  
24 student achievement; and

1           2. Provide continued support of the reading professional  
2 development institutes through ongoing teacher development at  
3 individual school sites. Funds may be used for the cost of mentor  
4 training, payment for substitute teachers, on-site facilitation, and  
5 any other costs necessary to ensure improved reading by students.

6           D. 1. For the purpose of implementing comprehensive reading  
7 reform and systemic change, the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~  
8 ~~Preparation~~ State Department of Education shall award one-year  
9 grants renewable for up to two (2) additional years to public  
10 schools that serve students in kindergarten through third grade.

11 The grants will provide for:

- 12           a. a five-day initial professional development institute  
13                 in elementary school reading for teachers of  
14                 kindergarten through third grade, instructional  
15                 leaders, and principals,
- 16           b. a three-day follow-up professional development  
17                 institute in elementary school reading for teachers of  
18                 kindergarten through third grade and instructional  
19                 leaders, and
- 20           c. continued support through ongoing teacher development  
21                 at school sites, including four (4) days of  
22                 professional development for principals and literacy  
23                 resource specialists, and six (6) days of on-site  
24                 visits by a program consultant.

1        2. In order to qualify for a grant pursuant to this subsection,  
2 the following requirements shall be met:

- 3            a. at least eighty percent (80%) of the teachers of  
4 kindergarten through third grade at the school shall  
5 have demonstrated support for the training program  
6 provided pursuant to this subsection,
- 7            b. the principal shall ensure that all members of the  
8 leadership team and all teachers of kindergarten  
9 through third grade will participate in all phases of  
10 the training program,
- 11           c. the school district shall ensure that any new teacher  
12 of kindergarten through third grade or principal at  
13 the school will participate in all phases of the  
14 training program, and
- 15           d. the school district shall employ a literacy resource  
16 specialist for at least two (2) years after completion  
17 of the training provided in this subsection. One or  
18 more districts may share a literacy resource  
19 specialist upon approval of the ~~Commission~~ Department.

20        3. Any school which has been determined by the State Board of  
21 Education to be a school in need of improvement or a school that has  
22 not made adequate yearly progress in reading shall be given priority  
23 for receipt of a grant. Grants shall be awarded based on the amount  
24 of funds allocated to the ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ State

1 Department of Education for the purposes of this section. Funds may  
2 be used for payment for substitute teachers, program consultants,  
3 on-site facilitation, and literacy resource specialists.

4 4. For program evaluation purposes, each school awarded a grant  
5 pursuant to this subsection shall provide to the ~~Commission~~  
6 Department student-level data and results of the reading assessments  
7 administered pursuant to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act for  
8 the year prior to the grant award, for each year a grant is received  
9 by the school, and for three (3) years after completion of the  
10 program. If funds are not sufficient to award grants to all  
11 eligible applicants, schools may be placed on a waiting list for  
12 priority consideration for the following year's round of grant  
13 awards which shall be superior to the priority given to schools as  
14 provided in paragraph 3 of this subsection, if the school provides  
15 student data for the current year to the ~~Commission~~ Department as  
16 provided in this paragraph.

17 5. The professional development institutes in elementary  
18 reading provided pursuant to this section shall incorporate the  
19 requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act.

20 E. As additional funds become available for such purpose, the  
21 ~~Commission~~ Department shall develop and offer professional  
22 development institutes in:

23 1. Mathematics for teachers in grades kindergarten through  
24 nine;

- 1        2. The use of technology in the classroom;
- 2        3. Training of residency committee members in teacher
- 3 mentoring; and
- 4        4. Hands-on inquiry-based science for elementary teachers.

5        F. The State Department of Education is authorized to contract  
6 through the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or other  
7 vendors to provide the professional development institutes as  
8 required in this section.

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

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