

1 1. Been recommended for a certificate by a school district
2 board of education or an accredited institution of higher education;

3 2. Satisfactorily completed a 150-clock-hour special education
4 program prescribed by the Board; and

5 3. On file with the Board a national criminal history record
6 check as required pursuant to Section 5-142 of Title 70 of the
7 Oklahoma Statutes. The individual applying for a provisional
8 certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the national
9 criminal history record check.

10 B. The one-year provisional certificate issued pursuant to this
11 section may be renewed for two (2) additional periods of one-year
12 each upon proof from an accredited institution of higher education
13 that the individual has successfully completed at least six (6)
14 credit hours of prescribed coursework during the previous year in an
15 alternative route to certification program in either mild-moderate
16 or severe-profound disabilities or toward a master's degree in
17 special education.

18 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board
19 of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-
20 moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any individual who has:

21 1. Been issued one or more provisional certificates pursuant to
22 this section;

23 2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework and any
24 required examinations of an alternative route to certification

1 program in either mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities or a
2 master's degree in special education from an accredited institution
3 of higher education within three (3) years of issuance of the
4 original provisional certificate;

5 3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area
6 competency examination as required pursuant to Section 6-187 of
7 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

8 4. Submitted an application and payment of the required
9 certification fee.

10 D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
11 the provisions of this section.

12 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.8 of Title 70, unless
14 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of
16 Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-
17 moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any individual who has:

18 1. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework and any
19 examination that may be required for a master's degree in special
20 education from an accredited institution of higher education;

21 2. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area
22 competency examination as required pursuant to Section 6-187 of
23 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

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1 3. On file with the State Board of Education a national
2 criminal history record check as required pursuant to Section 5-142
3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

4 4. Submitted an application and payment of the required
5 certification fee.

6 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, as
7 last amended by Section 11, Chapter 223, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp.
8 2012, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

9 Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency
10 examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
11 Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a competency examination
12 shall be adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and
13 Accountability for the general education, professional education and
14 various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring
15 academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or
16 teacher in the subject area the person is seeking licensure or
17 certification to teach which shall also include licensure or
18 certification as an administrator, as prescribed by the State Board
19 of Education.

20 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
21 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
22 confidentiality of examinations.

23 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until
24 successfully completing the competency examination except those

1 candidates who make application to the State Board and meet the
2 criteria for the ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative placement
3 program pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification
4 shall be limited to areas of approval in which the licensed or
5 certified teacher has successfully completed the examination.
6 Subject to the provisions of subsection C of this section, testing
7 for certification for subjects in which a teacher candidate or
8 teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an endorsement to
9 teach shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

10 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
11 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
12 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

13 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a
14 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the
15 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully
16 completed the subject area portion of the examination.

17 Certification 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this
18 paragraph, certification in early childhood, elementary, or special
19 education shall require completion of an appropriate teacher
20 education program approved by the Commission.

21 ~~2.~~ Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education
22 may be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the
23 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
24 appropriate subject area portion of the examination ~~by July 1, 2014.~~

1 Any teacher who is certified to teach early childhood education may
2 be certified in elementary education upon meeting the requirements
3 provided in law and successful completion of the appropriate subject
4 area portion of the examination ~~by July 1, 2014~~. Any special
5 education teacher who becomes certified to teach through completion
6 of an accredited teacher preparation program may be certified in
7 early childhood or elementary education upon meeting the
8 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
9 appropriate subject portion of the examination ~~prior to July 1,~~
10 ~~2014~~. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through completion
11 of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
12 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
13 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the
14 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
15 appropriate subject area portion of the examination ~~by July 1, 2014~~.

16 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
17 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
18 Commission.

19 E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
20 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
21 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
22 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
23 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
24 provisional or standard certificate or who is licensed in the

1 teaching profession. In the event a district is unable to hire an
2 individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document
3 efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard
4 certificate or with a license in another curricular area with
5 academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these
6 alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to
7 employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the
8 State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

9 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 13-110, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Section 13-110. A. Qualified and properly certified teachers
12 of special education shall be paid a minimum of five percent (5%)
13 above the prevailing wage paid teachers of children who are
14 nondisabled in the same school district.

15 B. Qualified and properly certified teachers of special
16 education assigned to teach students with disabilities in the
17 severe-profound range of functioning or assigned to teach students
18 identified as having emotional disturbance or autism who receive
19 special education services in a special education setting for eighty
20 percent (80%) or more of the school day, shall be paid a minimum of
21 ten percent (10%) above the prevailing wage paid teachers of
22 children who are nondisabled in the same school district.

23 C. Qualified and properly certified teachers of special
24 education who serve as special education teachers for five (5) or

1 more consecutive school years in the same school district shall be
2 paid a minimum of five percent (5%) above the prevailing wage paid
3 teachers of children who are nondisabled in the same school district
4 which shall be in addition to the teacher pay provision set out in
5 subsection A or B of this section.

6 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2013.

7 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
8 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
13 03/05/2013 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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