

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 HOUSE BILL 2885

By: Coody

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 6-182, as amended by Section 8, Chapter 223,  
9 O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013, Section 6-182),  
10 which relates to definition under the Oklahoma  
11 Teacher Preparation Act; modifying definitions;  
12 amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, which relates  
13 to criteria for approval and accreditation of teacher  
14 education programs; directing the Oklahoma Commission  
15 for Teacher Preparation to work with certain entities  
16 to establish paid teacher internship programs;  
17 stating purpose of the programs; providing for  
18 enrollment of certain students; amending 70 O.S.  
19 2011, Section 6-195, which relates to residency  
20 programs; updating statutory language; deleting  
21 obsolete language; adding duties for the residency  
22 committee; requiring school districts to appoint a  
23 residency committee for alternatively certified  
24 teachers; deleting option allowing the mentor teacher  
position on the residency committee to be unfilled;  
directing the State Board of Education to conduct  
educator supply-and-demand studies; specifying  
purpose of the studies; requiring the Board to submit  
a report to certain persons; providing for  
codification; providing an effective date; and  
declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-182, as  
2 amended by Section 8, Chapter 223, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,  
3 Section 6-182), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

5 1. "Board" means the State Board of Education;

6 2. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
7 Preparation until July 1, 2014, and beginning July 1, 2014, means  
8 the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability;

9 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
10 Education;

11 4. "Licensed teacher" means any person who holds a valid  
12 license to teach, issued by the Board in accordance with the  
13 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

14 5. "Professional development program" means the program  
15 mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous  
16 improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of  
17 this state;

18 6. "Teacher education professional development committee" means  
19 the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the  
20 continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in  
21 teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

22 7. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

23 8. "Residency committee" means a committee in a school district  
24 for the purpose of reviewing the teaching performance of a resident

1 teacher, providing professional support, mentorship and coaching to  
2 the resident teacher and making recommendations to the Board and the  
3 preparing institution of higher education regarding certification of  
4 the resident teacher. A residency committee shall consist of a  
5 mentor teacher, the principal or an assistant principal of the  
6 employing school or an administrator designated by the district  
7 board and a teacher educator in a college or school of education of  
8 an institution of higher education, or an educator in a department  
9 or school outside the institution's teacher education unit.  
10 Provided that, if available, qualified mentor teachers shall have  
11 expertise in the teaching field of the resident teacher and, if  
12 possible, the higher education members of the residency committee  
13 shall have expertise and experience in the teaching field of the  
14 resident teacher. However, in all cases, at least one member of the  
15 residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the  
16 teaching field of the resident teacher;

17 9. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-  
18 116 of this title;

19 10. "Resident teacher" means any licensed teacher who is  
20 employed in an accredited school to serve as a teacher under the  
21 guidance and assistance of a mentor teacher and residency committee.  
22 The resident teacher shall have completed the program of the college  
23 or school of education of the accredited institution of higher  
24 education from which the person has been graduated, and shall have

1 successfully completed the competency examination in areas of  
2 approval in which the resident teacher seeks certification;

3 11. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been issued a  
4 certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher  
5 Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

6 12. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher holding a standard  
7 certificate who is employed in a school district to serve as a  
8 teacher and who has been appointed to provide guidance, support,  
9 coaching and assistance to a resident teacher employed by the school  
10 district. A mentor teacher shall be a classroom teacher and have a  
11 minimum of two (2) years of classroom teaching experience as a  
12 certified teacher.

13 A mentor teacher shall be selected by the principal from a list  
14 of qualified teacher volunteers who have submitted their names for  
15 that purpose. After compilation of the list, the principal shall  
16 provide opportunity for input from the bargaining agent, where one  
17 exists. Membership or nonmembership in a professional teacher  
18 organization shall not be considered as a factor in selecting a  
19 mentor teacher. No teacher may serve as a mentor teacher for more  
20 than one resident teacher at a time. When possible, a mentor  
21 teacher shall have successfully completed a mentor teacher  
22 professional development institute and be assigned to the same  
23 school site and have similar certification as the resident teacher;

24

1       13. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is  
2 employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher  
3 education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the  
4 preparation of education personnel; and

5       14. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in  
6 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for licensure and certification  
7 as a teacher and shall consist of tests over general education,  
8 professional education and subject areas as defined by the Oklahoma  
9 Commission for Teacher Preparation until July 1, 2014, and beginning  
10 July 1, 2014, as defined by the Commission for Educational Quality  
11 and Accountability.

12       SECTION 2.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14       Section 6-186. A. Criteria for the approval and accreditation  
15 of teacher education programs in Oklahoma institutions of higher  
16 education shall include, but not be limited to, substantial evidence  
17 that persons who enter teacher education programs demonstrate:

18       1. Competency in the oral and written use of the English  
19 language;

20       2. A minimum grade point average as established by the Oklahoma  
21 Commission for Teacher Preparation; and

22       3. The ability to meet criteria established pursuant to the  
23 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act at the completion of the teacher  
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1 education program and provide evidence of having worked with  
2 children or youth in a variety of situations.

3 Criteria shall also include a greater emphasis upon field work  
4 in accredited schools by prospective teachers under the supervision  
5 of higher education faculty.

6 B. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall work  
7 with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various  
8 institutions of higher education in establishing a paid teacher  
9 internship program at each institution for prospective teachers.  
10 The purpose of each program shall be to provide mentorship and  
11 support for prospective teachers. Students enrolled in a teacher  
12 education program and students enrolled in an alternative placement  
13 program shall be eligible to participate in the program.

14 C. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature  
15 that the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation work with the  
16 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various  
17 institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby  
18 full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional  
19 development during their tenure at an institution of higher  
20 education to ensure that the future teachers of this state are  
21 taught by professional educators fully trained in their area of  
22 expertise. Each approved or accredited program of teacher education  
23 shall have a system for documenting and reporting the annual  
24 professional development activities of all teacher education faculty

1 members. Faculty professional development reports shall be reviewed  
2 by the Commission along with professional development activities as  
3 a normal part of the accreditation process.

4 It is further declared to be the intent of the Legislature that  
5 such professional development plans provide alternative means of  
6 education including, but not limited to:

- 7 1. Professional development programs;
- 8 2. Higher education courses;
- 9 3. Exchange programs with public school classroom teachers,  
10 administrators, and other school personnel; and
- 11 4. Programs whereby all full-time teacher education faculty  
12 members directly involved in the teacher education process,  
13 including all administrators of the teacher education program, are  
14 required to serve in a state accredited public school for at least  
15 ten (10) clock hours per school year in responsibilities related to  
16 their respective teacher education teaching fields.

17 All public school systems shall participate in the programs  
18 provided for in this subsection when needed.

19 ~~C.~~ D. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall  
20 adopt rules requiring specific improvements to strengthen the  
21 screening of student applicants and field activity and placement as  
22 set out in subsection A of this section. Such rules shall be  
23 reviewed and amended or readopted by the Commission at least once  
24 every five (5) years.

1       ~~D.~~ E. To assist the Commission in setting specific requirements  
2 as set out in subsections A and ~~E~~ D of this section, the Commission  
3 shall annually prepare a statistical report showing the percentage  
4 of students from each of the Oklahoma institutions of higher  
5 education who have successfully completed or who have failed the  
6 competency examination for licensure and certification. The annual  
7 report shall show the percentages for each institution of higher  
8 education and each assessment area separately by student degree  
9 status and shall be distributed annually to each member of the  
10 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, the Oklahoma State  
11 Regents for Higher Education, the governing board of each  
12 institution which has an approved or state accredited teacher  
13 education program, the State Board of Education, the State Board of  
14 Career and Technology Education and the Legislature.

15       SECTION 3.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-195, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17       Section 6-195. A. The State Department of Education shall  
18 administer a residency program which shall be approved by the State  
19 Board of Education. ~~Such~~ The program shall be developed in  
20 consultation with the teacher education institutions, the Oklahoma  
21 Commission for Teacher Preparation and the district boards of  
22 education. ~~Such~~ The program shall include, but not be limited to:

23       1. Guidelines and assignments for resident teacher positions in  
24 the school districts;



1           2. Requirements and guidelines for selection and appointment of  
2 mentor teachers which must include any requirements specified in the  
3 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act;

4           3. Guidelines for the appointment and functions of a residency  
5 committee; and

6           4. An appropriate professional development program for the  
7 resident teacher.

8           B. Except as otherwise provided in the Oklahoma Teacher  
9 Preparation Act, no person shall be certified to teach in the  
10 accredited schools of this state, unless ~~such~~ the person:

11           1. Has completed at least one (1) school year of teaching  
12 service as a resident teacher in the residency program as provided  
13 in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act;

14           2. Has been recommended for certification by the appointed  
15 residency committee after completion of not less than one (1) or  
16 more than two (2) school years of resident teaching service; and

17           3. Has successfully completed the ~~curriculum examination as~~  
18 ~~prescribed by the Board prior to July 1, 1997, and the competency~~  
19 ~~examination as prescribed by the Commission beginning July 1, 1997.~~

20           C. Any person who has been issued a license to teach by the  
21 Board may be employed on a temporary or continuing contract basis as  
22 a resident teacher by an accredited school upon appointment by the  
23 district board of education or by a private or public provider of  
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1 early childhood education programs as authorized in Section 11-103.7  
2 of this title.

3 D. Upon placement of a licensed teacher in a resident teacher  
4 position at a public school, the district board of education shall  
5 appoint the residency committee members, as prescribed in the  
6 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, who shall have the following  
7 duties:

8 1. Meet with the resident teacher as may be required by the  
9 Board;

10 2. Work with the resident teacher to assist in all matters  
11 concerning classroom management and professional development for  
12 that teacher;

13 3. Provide professional support, mentorship and coaching for  
14 the resident teacher;

15 4. Provide for meaningful parental, guardian or custodian input  
16 as one criterion in evaluating the resident teacher's performance;  
17 and

18 ~~4.~~ 5. Upon completion of one (1) school year of residency, make  
19 recommendations to the Board and the preparing institution of higher  
20 education as to whether the resident teacher should be issued a  
21 certificate or whether ~~such~~ the resident teacher shall be required  
22 to serve as a resident teacher for one (1) additional school year.  
23 In the event a resident teacher serves a second year, the  
24 recommendation of the residency committee to the Board and the

1 institution of higher education after the second year shall be for  
2 either certification or noncertification.

3       Upon recommendation from the residency committee for  
4 noncertification or an additional year in the residency program,  
5 ~~such~~ the residency committee shall, upon request of the resident  
6 teacher, supply a list to the resident teacher of the reasons for  
7 ~~such~~ the recommendation. The list of reasons shall remain  
8 confidential, except as otherwise provided by the resident teacher.

9       In the event a resident teacher is required to serve an  
10 additional year in the residency program, the resident teacher shall  
11 not be required to be under the supervision of the same residency  
12 committee, or any member of the committee, which supervised the  
13 resident teacher during the initial year in the program; and

14       ~~5.~~ 6. In the event the committee recommendation to the Board  
15 and the institution of higher education is for certification, a  
16 residency committee shall also recommend a professional development  
17 program for the resident teacher, designed to strengthen the  
18 resident teacher's teaching skills in any area identified by the  
19 committee.

20       All resident years shall count toward salary, fringe benefit  
21 adjustments, career status and retirement.

22       E. Upon employment of a licensed teacher in a resident teacher  
23 position by a private or public provider of early childhood  
24 education programs pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section

1 11-103.7 of this title and upon employment of a teacher with an  
2 alternative placement teaching certificate, the district board of  
3 education shall appoint the residency committee members, as  
4 prescribed in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. The residency  
5 committee members shall have the same duties as prescribed in  
6 subsection D of this section.

7 F. Nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring more  
8 than one (1) year of employment at the resident level before a  
9 standard certificate can be issued to a resident teacher.

10 The professional development program shall commence with the  
11 residency year and shall require continuing education throughout the  
12 career of a teacher.

13 ~~G. For the 2003-04 school year, if the district board of~~  
14 ~~education is unable to find a teacher willing to serve as a mentor~~  
15 ~~teacher, the district may leave the position of mentor teacher on~~  
16 ~~the residency committee unfilled. If the district leaves the~~  
17 ~~position unfilled, the remaining members of the residency committee~~  
18 ~~may carry out the duties of the committee.~~

19 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-211 of Title 70, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 The State Board of Education shall conduct an educator supply-  
23 and-demand study every three (3) years. The study shall identify  
24 areas of teacher shortage and make recommendations for addressing

1 the areas of most critical need. The Board shall submit a report  
2 outlining the findings to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

4 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

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

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