

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1492

By: Sparks

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school employee professional  
8 development programs; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section  
9 6-194, as amended by Section 10, Chapter 83, O.S.L.  
10 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013, Section 6-194), which  
11 relates to district professional development  
12 programs; requiring certain personnel to be provided  
13 professional development opportunities; providing an  
14 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as  
17 amended by Section 10, Chapter 83, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,  
18 Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this  
20 state shall establish professional development programs for the  
21 certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district.  
22 Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations  
23 of a professional development committee appointed by the board of  
24 education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30,  
2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may  
elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for

1 certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district.  
2 If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional  
3 development program, the district may expend any monies allocated  
4 for professional development for any purpose related to the support  
5 and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of  
6 education of the school district.

7 B. Each professional development committee shall include  
8 classroom teachers, administrators and parents, guardians or  
9 custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with  
10 a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the  
11 professional development committee shall be composed of classroom  
12 teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated  
13 administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted  
14 by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall  
15 be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the  
16 district. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee  
17 shall include at least one school counselor in its membership.

18 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional  
19 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach  
20 to analyze student data and determine district and school  
21 professional development needs. The professional development  
22 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of  
23 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum  
24 areas for the following goals:

- 1 1. Increasing the academic performance data 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 D. 1. Each program may also include components on classroom  
9 management and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents,  
10 guardians or custodians of students, special education, and racial  
11 and ethnic education, which all personnel defined as teachers in  
12 Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete on a  
13 periodic basis.

14 2. The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to  
15 assist school districts in developing and implementing racial and  
16 ethnic education components into professional development programs.  
17 At least once a year a program shall be offered which includes a  
18 component of teacher training on recognition and reporting of child  
19 abuse and neglect which all teachers shall be required to complete.

20 ~~Additionally at~~

21 3. At least one time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010  
22 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all  
23 resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through  
24 grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during

1 the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years  
2 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals  
3 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be  
4 required to complete the autism training at least one time every  
5 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum  
6 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources  
7 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to  
8 challenging behavior.

9 4. Each ~~adopted~~ program shall allow school counselors to  
10 receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or credit required  
11 each year through programs or courses specifically designed for  
12 school counselors.

13 5. Each program shall allow related services personnel, as  
14 identified in the policies and procedures for special education by  
15 the State Department of Education, who are employed by a district to  
16 be provided the opportunity to participate in training applicable to  
17 their field that will enable them to maintain professional  
18 licensure.

19 E. Districts are authorized to utilize any means for  
20 professional development that is not prohibited by law including,  
21 but not limited to, professional development provided by the  
22 district, any state agency, institution of higher education, or any  
23 private entity.

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1       ~~D.~~ F. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each  
2 licensed or certified teacher in this state shall be required by the  
3 district board of education to meet the professional development  
4 requirements established by the board, or established through the  
5 negotiation process. Except as otherwise provided for in this  
6 subsection, the professional development requirements established by  
7 each board of education shall require every teacher to annually  
8 complete a minimum number of the total number of points required to  
9 maintain employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board  
10 of education professional development requirements may be grounds  
11 for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such  
12 failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary  
13 increments affecting the teacher. For the fiscal years ending June  
14 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a licensed or certified teacher shall  
15 not be required to complete any points of the total number of  
16 professional development points required. Provided, a teacher may  
17 elect to complete some or all of the minimum number of points  
18 required for the two (2) fiscal years and any points completed shall  
19 be counted toward the total number of points required to maintain  
20 employment. If a teacher does not complete some or all of the  
21 minimum number of points required for one (1) or both fiscal years,  
22 the total number of points required to maintain employment shall be  
23 adjusted and reduced by the number of points not completed.

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1        ~~E.~~ G. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State  
2 Department of Education on the district level professional  
3 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results  
4 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection  
5 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and  
6 offer a professional development program as provided for in  
7 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to  
8 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but  
9 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not  
10 to offer a program and all professional development activities  
11 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

12        ~~F.~~ H. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department  
13 shall develop an online system for reporting as required in  
14 subsection ~~E~~ G of this section. The Department shall also make such  
15 information available on its website.

16        SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

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

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