

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1581

By: Coody, Kern, Shumate and
Tibbs of the House

3 and

4 Jolley of the Senate
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7 An Act relating to schools; amending Section 4,
8 Chapter 431, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section
9 1210.508F), which relates to training for teachers of
10 students with reading difficulties; requiring certain
11 institutions within The Oklahoma State System of
12 Higher Education to incorporate into certain teaching
13 programs the study of certain reading instruction
14 elements; requiring certain teacher candidates to
15 pass an assessment of reading instruction skills;
16 specifying skills to be measured in the assessment;
17 requiring institutions to report results of the
18 assessment on an annual report; directing the
19 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to
20 include the data in certain annual report; stating
21 legislative intent; providing an effective date; and
22 declaring an emergency.

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

24 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 431, O.S.L.
2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508F), is amended to read as
follows:

Section 1210.508F A. The State Board of Education shall ensure
that the reading competencies for elementary teachers are included
in the competencies for special education teachers.

1 B. The State Board of Education and the Oklahoma Commission for
2 Teacher Preparation in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents
3 for Higher Education shall ensure that all teachers of early
4 childhood education, elementary education, and special education are
5 provided quality training in intervention, instruction, and
6 remediation strategies in order to meet the needs of students in
7 kindergarten through third grade who are determined to be at risk of
8 reading difficulties.

9 C. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, all institutions
10 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that offer
11 elementary, early childhood education, or special education programs
12 approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall
13 incorporate into those programs the requirement that teacher
14 candidates study the five elements of reading instruction which are
15 phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and
16 comprehension.

17 D. Effective July 1, 2010, teacher candidates enrolled in an
18 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in
19 an elementary, early childhood education, or special education
20 program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation
21 shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive assessment to
22 measure their teaching skills in the area of reading instruction.
23 The assessment shall be developed and administered by the
24 institutions that offer elementary, early childhood education, or

1 special education programs that lead to certification. The
2 assessment shall measure the knowledge and understanding of the
3 teacher candidate in the teaching of the five elements of reading
4 instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency,
5 vocabulary, and comprehension. The results of the assessment shall
6 be reported annually by the institution to the Oklahoma Commission
7 for Teacher Preparation as a part of the required annual report for
8 the institution. The Commission shall include the data in the
9 annual report to the Oklahoma Legislature as required pursuant to
10 Section 6-186 of this title. It is the intent of the Legislature to
11 ensure that teachers graduating from institutions within The
12 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education have the knowledge and
13 skills to effectively teach reading to all children.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

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

1 Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of March, 2009.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives
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6 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2009.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate
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