

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2885

By: Coody

7
8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9
10 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
11 Section 1-116, which relates to positions in the
12 school system; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-126,
13 which relates to educational improvement plans;
14 amending Section 1, Chapter 312, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S.
15 Supp. 2013, Section 3-129.11), which relates to the
16 School District Empowerment Program; amending 70 O.S.
17 2011, Section 6-101, which relates to teacher
18 contracts; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-101.3, as
19 amended by Section 1, Chapter 373, O.S.L. 2013 (70
20 O.S. Supp. 2013, Section 6-101.3), which relates to
21 definitions; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-101.40,
22 which relates to suspension, demotion, termination or
23 nonreemployment of support employees; amending 70
24 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as amended by Section 1,
 Chapter 76, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013, Section
 6-122.3), which relates to alternative placement
 teaching certificate; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section
 6-122.6, which relates to a temporary teaching
 license; updating statutory language; modifying
 definition; deleting references to licenses or
 licensure; changing reference from license to
 certificate; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 6-182,
 as amended by Section 8, Chapter 223, O.S.L. 2012, 6-
 184, as amended by Section 9, Chapter 223, O.S.L.
 2012, 6-185, as amended by Section 10, Chapter 223,
 O.S.L. 2012, 6-186, 6-187, as last amended by Section
 3, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013, 6-189, as amended by
 Section 1, Chapter 360, O.S.L. 2012, 6-189.1, as
 amended by Section 1, Chapter 8, O.S.L. 2013, 6-

1 189.2, 6-190, 6-192, 6-194, as amended by Section 10,
2 Chapter 83, O.S.L. 2013, 6-195, 6-195.2 and 6-197 (70
3 O.S. Supp. 2013, Sections 6-182, 6-184, 6-185, 6-187,
4 6-189, 6-189.1 and 6-194), which relate to the
5 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; modifying
6 definitions; updating statutory language; deleting
7 references to licenses or licensure; changing
8 references from licenses to certificates; directing
9 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to
10 work with certain entities to establish paid teacher
11 internship programs; stating purpose of the programs;
12 providing for enrollment of certain students;
13 deleting obsolete language; deleting certain
14 certification requirements; deleting certification
15 requirements for graduates of out-of-state
16 institutions; making residency program optional for
17 school districts; modifying purpose of the program;
18 deleting certain certification requirements;
19 modifying duties for the residency committee;
20 deleting additional year of residency by certain
21 teachers; requiring appointment of a residency
22 committee for alternative placement teaching
23 certificate teachers; deleting term of resident-level
24 employment; deleting option allowing the mentor
teacher position on the residency committee to be
unfilled; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-210, as
amended by Section 14, Chapter 83, O.S.L. 2013 (70
O.S. Supp. 2013, Section 6-210), which relates to the
Inner City Schools Rescue program; amending 70 O.S.
2011, Section 509.2, which relates to recognition of
employee organizations; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
Sections 1210.567 and 1210.568, which relate to
alternative education programs; deleting reference to
licensed teachers; deleting reference to entry-year
teachers; directing the State Board of Education to
conduct educator supply-and-demand studies; providing
for cooperation with other entities; 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.

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

2 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 Section 1-116. As used in this act:

5 1. ~~Teacher: Any~~ "Teacher" means any person who is employed to
6 serve as district superintendent, principal, supervisor, counselor,
7 librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher, or in any other
8 instructional, supervisory, or administrative capacity, is defined
9 as a teacher. Such person shall not be deemed qualified unless ~~he~~
10 ~~or she~~ the person holds a valid certificate ~~or license~~, issued by
11 and in accordance with the rules ~~and regulations~~ of the State Board
12 of Education, to perform the particular services for which ~~he or she~~
13 the person is employed-;

14 2. ~~Superintendent: A superintendent of schools shall be~~
15 "Superintendent" or "superintendent of schools" means the executive
16 officer of the board of education and the administrative head of the
17 school system of a district maintaining an accredited school,
18 provided ~~he or she~~ the person holds an administrator's certificate
19 recognized by the State Board of Education-;

20 3. ~~Principal: A principal shall be~~ "Principal" means any
21 person other than a district superintendent of schools having
22 supervisory or administrative authority over any school or school
23 building having two or more teachers. A teaching principal shall be
24 a principal who devotes at least one-half the time school is in

1 session to classroom teaching. ~~Until July 1, 1993, teaching~~
2 ~~principals shall not be required to hold administrative~~
3 ~~certificates. Beginning July 1, 1993, teaching~~ Teaching principals
4 shall be required to hold administrative certificates.;

5 4. ~~For~~ "Teachers" means, for purposes of complying with the
6 State Aid Law and other statutes which apportion money on the basis
7 of teaching units or the number of teachers employed or qualified,
8 all persons holding proper certificates ~~or licenses~~ and connected in
9 any capacity with the instruction of pupils ~~shall be designated as~~
10 ~~"teachers".;~~

11 5. ~~Entry-year Teacher:~~ ~~An entry-year~~ "Resident teacher" means
12 any certified teacher ~~is any licensed teacher~~ who is employed in a
13 local school to serve as a classroom teacher under the guidance and
14 assistance of a mentor teacher ~~consultant~~ or teachers and ~~an entry-~~
15 ~~year assistance~~ residency committee. Any such person shall have
16 completed the program of the college or school of education of the
17 accredited institution of higher learning from which the person has
18 been graduated.;

19 6. ~~Student Teacher:~~ ~~A student teacher is~~ "Student teacher"
20 means any student who is enrolled in an institution of higher
21 learning approved by the State Board of Education for teacher
22 training and who is jointly assigned by such institution of higher
23 learning and a school district's board of education to perform
24 practice teaching under the direction of a regularly employed and

1 certified teacher. A student teacher, while serving a nonsalaried
2 internship under the supervision of a certified teacher, shall be
3 accorded the same protection of the laws as that accorded the
4 certified teacher-;

5 7. ~~A school nurse~~ "School nurse" means a person employed full
6 time by a board of education ~~shall be~~ who is a registered nurse
7 licensed by the Oklahoma State Board of Nurse Registration and
8 Nursing Education, and is certified the same as a teacher by the
9 State Department of Education. Provided, that any person who is
10 employed as a full-time nurse in any school district in Oklahoma,
11 but who is not registered on the effective date of this act, may
12 continue to serve in the same capacity-; however, such person shall,
13 under rules ~~and regulations~~ adopted by the State Board of Education,
14 attend classes in nursing and prepare to become registered.

15 A school nurse employed by a board of education shall be
16 accorded the same protection of laws and all other benefits accorded
17 a certified teacher-; and

18 8. ~~Support Employee: A support employee shall be~~ "Support
19 employee" means an employee who provides those services which are
20 not performed by certified teachers, principals, superintendents or
21 administrators and which are necessary for the efficient and
22 satisfactory functioning of a school district.

23 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-126, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 3-126. A. A school district may develop an educational
2 improvement plan which includes exemption from the educational-
3 related statutory requirements set forth in subsection C of this
4 section and State Board of Education rules for the school district,
5 a school site or any program, grade level, consortium of schools or
6 school districts or other group within the school district. The
7 board of education of the school district shall, through adoption of
8 a resolution, approve the plan prior to application being made to
9 the State Board of Education.

10 B. Each educational improvement plan approved by the State
11 Board of Education shall include the following components:

12 1. A description of the educational benefits to be derived;

13 2. A definition of the standards of the plan;

14 3. Development of definitive work products, such as site
15 improvement plans and progress reports;

16 4. Demonstration of collaboration by teachers, administrators,
17 higher education representatives, students, parents/families, and
18 the community;

19 5. Development and the use of an assessment mechanism to
20 determine progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan;

21 6. Development of an in-service training plan to be provided to
22 personnel at the site who will participate in the project;

23 7. Report on the results of the plan to the State Board of
24 Education and provision of appropriate technical assistance to other

1 school districts and the State Department of Education as required;
2 and

3 8. Explanation of how the plan will affect other schools,
4 programs or sites in the district.

5 C. Each educational improvement plan shall include a list of
6 the specific educational-related statutory requirements and State
7 Board of Education rules the school district is requesting an
8 exemption from and why each exemption is necessary to success of the
9 plan. The school district shall not be granted an exemption from
10 federal educational-related requirements. A school district may
11 request an exemption from any statutory requirement or State Board
12 of Education rule not related to bilingual and special education
13 programs, health and safety provisions, school finance, State Aid,
14 pupil formula weights, teacher salary and teacher retirement, the
15 Oklahoma School Testing Program, the Oklahoma Educational Indicators
16 Program and the teacher preparation, examination, ~~licensure,~~
17 certification, residency and professional development system. The
18 State Board of Education may grant district-wide exemptions from
19 certification requirements for Library Media Specialists to
20 districts experiencing a shortage in this area. The State Board of
21 Education may grant an exemption from certification requirements for
22 superintendents to any district with an unweighted average daily
23 membership over twenty-five thousand (25,000).
24

1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 312, O.S.L.
2 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013, Section 3-129.11), is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 Section 3-129.11 A. There is hereby established the School
5 District Empowerment Program which shall be administered by the
6 State Board of Education. The purpose of the program is to empower
7 locally elected school board members to govern school districts and
8 make decisions based on the needs of their students and
9 circumstances.

10 B. 1. Subject to the provisions of this section, a school
11 district shall be allowed to submit a request to the State Board of
12 Education for an exemption from all statutory requirements and State
13 Board of Education rules from which charter schools are exempt, as
14 provided for in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Any request for
15 exemption shall include a plan which outlines the goals sought to be
16 achieved at a minimum, include the educational and fiscal benefits
17 and the anticipated impacts or outcomes the plan will have in the
18 district.

19 2. Within ninety (90) days after receiving the request and
20 plan, the State Board shall approve or disapprove the request. If
21 the State Board does not approve the request, it shall provide to
22 the school district a written explanation of the basis for its
23 decision. The school district may resubmit an amended request at
24 any time after the denial. The request shall be approved by the

1 State Board before implementation by the school district. An
2 approved request and plan shall be for no longer than three (3)
3 years. Prior to the beginning of the third year, the school
4 district may apply for renewal of the approved request and plan.
5 The school district shall be required to submit an annual report and
6 the State Board shall annually assess the academic achievement and
7 fiscal status of the school district.

8 C. Nothing in this section shall prevent a school district
9 board of education from choosing to follow any or all state laws,
10 rules or regulations from which a charter school is exempt. A
11 school district which has been granted approval by the State Board
12 for exemption as set forth in subsection B of this section shall
13 have the option to adopt policies to implement any requirement for
14 the school district that is consistent with any statutory
15 requirement or mandate or State Board rule, but a participating
16 school shall comply with the following requirements:

17 1. Students who reside in the school district shall be entitled
18 to attend school in the district as set forth in Section 1-114 of
19 ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

20 2. School districts shall comply with the requirements of the
21 minimum salary schedule for teachers as set forth in Section 18-
22 114.12 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

23 3. Employees of school districts shall continue to participate
24 as members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma as set

1 forth in Section 17-101 et seq. of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~
2 this title;

3 4. School districts shall comply with the requirement to
4 provide a health insurance plan for school district employees as set
5 forth in Section 5-117.5 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this
6 title and to establish or make available to school district
7 employees a cafeteria plan as set forth in Section 26-104 of ~~Title~~
8 ~~70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

9 5. School districts shall require any person employed by the
10 school district to file with the district board a current Oklahoma
11 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
12 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
13 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Each
14 district shall adopt a policy regarding criminal history record
15 checks as set forth in Section 5-142 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~
16 ~~Statutes~~ this title;

17 6. School districts shall comply with the requirement to
18 evaluate teachers and to train personnel designated to conduct
19 personnel evaluations as set forth in Sections 6-101.10 and 6-101.11
20 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, the dismissal and
21 due process procedures for administrators as set forth in Sections
22 6-101.13 through 6-101.15 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this
23 title and the due process procedures for teachers as set forth in
24

1 Sections 6-101.21 through 6-101.26 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~
2 ~~Statutes~~ this title;

3 7. School districts shall comply with the requirement to make
4 payroll deductions for either or both professional organization dues
5 and political contributions upon the request of an employee as set
6 forth in Section 5-139 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this
7 title;

8 8. School districts shall comply with the dismissal and due
9 process procedures for education support employees as set forth in
10 Sections 6-101.40 through 6-101.47 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~
11 ~~Statutes~~ this title;

12 9. School districts shall employ as teachers, counselors,
13 librarians, school nurses, superintendents, principals, supervisors
14 or any other instructional, supervisory or administrative employee
15 only those persons who are certified ~~or licensed~~ by the State Board
16 of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation
17 Act, except for persons exempt from the certification ~~or licensure~~
18 requirements as otherwise provided by law;

19 10. School districts shall provide for negotiations between
20 school employees and school districts as set forth in Sections 509.1
21 through 509.11 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

22 11. School districts shall be required to offer and students
23 enrolled in the school district shall be required to complete the
24

1 curriculum requirements as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of ~~Title 70~~
2 ~~of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

3 12. Students enrolled in the school district shall be required
4 to demonstrate mastery of the state academic content standards as
5 set forth in Section 1210.523 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~
6 this title; and

7 13. Members of the school district board of education shall be
8 required to satisfy the instruction and continuing education
9 requirements as set forth in Sections 5-110, 5-110.1 and 5-110.2 of
10 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

11 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-101, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-101. A. Except as provided in subsection E of this
14 section, no person shall be permitted to teach in any school
15 district of the state without a written contract, except as provided
16 herein for substitute teachers and except teachers of classes in
17 adult education. Except as provided in subsection J of this
18 section, the board of education of each school district, wherein
19 school is expected to be conducted for the ensuing year, shall
20 employ and contract in writing with qualified teachers for and in
21 the name of the district. One copy of the contract shall be filed
22 with the clerk of the board of education and one copy shall be
23 retained by the teacher.

24

1 B. Except as otherwise provided by subsection J of this section
2 and any other law, no board of education shall have authority to
3 enter into any written contract with a teacher who does not hold a
4 valid certificate issued or recognized by the State Board of
5 Education authorizing said teacher to teach the grades or subject
6 matter for which the teacher is employed. Any board of education
7 paying or authorizing the payment of the salary of any teacher not
8 holding a certificate, as required herein, shall be adjudged to be
9 guilty of a fraudulent expenditure of public funds and members
10 voting for such payment shall be held jointly responsible for the
11 return of the amount of any public monies thus expended, upon suit
12 brought by the district attorney or by any interested citizen in the
13 district where such funds have been expended.

14 C. It shall be the duty of the superintendent of schools under
15 whose supervision teachers have been contracted to teach to certify
16 to the treasurer of the contracting district the names of the
17 teachers holding valid certificates with whom contracts have been
18 made and the names of substitute teachers employed in accordance
19 with law. The treasurer shall not register any warrant issued in
20 payment of salary to any teacher whose name is not included in such
21 list and shall be liable on the official bond for the treasurer for
22 the amount of any warrant registered in violation of the provisions
23 of this section.
24

1 D. Whenever any person shall enter into a contract with any
2 school district in Oklahoma to teach in such school district the
3 contract shall be binding on the teacher and on the board of
4 education until the teacher legally has been discharged from the
5 teaching position or released by the board of education from the
6 contract. Except as provided in Section 5-106A of this title, until
7 such teacher has been thus discharged or released, the teacher shall
8 not have authority to enter into a contract with any other board of
9 education in Oklahoma for the same time covered by the original
10 contract. If upon written complaint by the board of education in a
11 district any teacher is reported to have failed to obey the terms of
12 the contract previously made and to have entered into a contract
13 with another board of education without having been released from
14 the former contract except as provided in Section 5-106A of this
15 title, the teacher, upon being found guilty of such charge at a
16 hearing held before the State Board of Education, shall have such
17 teacher's certificate suspended for the remainder of the term for
18 which the contract was made.

19 E. A board of education shall have authority to enter into
20 written contracts with teachers for the ensuing fiscal year prior to
21 the beginning of such year. If, prior to the first Monday in June,
22 a board of education has not entered into a written contract with a
23 regularly employed teacher or notified the teacher in writing by
24 registered or certified mail that a recommendation has been made not

1 to reemploy the teacher for the ensuing fiscal year, and if, by
2 fifteen (15) days after the first Monday in June, such teacher has
3 not notified the board of education in writing by registered or
4 certified mail that such teacher does not desire to be reemployed in
5 such school district for the ensuing year, such teacher shall be
6 considered as employed on a continuing contract basis and on the
7 same salary schedule used for other teachers in the school district
8 for the ensuing fiscal year, and such employment and continuing
9 contract shall be binding on the teacher and on the school district.

10 F. Whenever a school district is engaged in contract
11 negotiations with teachers employed by that school district after
12 the school year has begun and the teachers are employed on a
13 continuing contract basis, the school district shall, beginning at
14 the first of the school year, pay the teachers any state-mandated
15 salary increases and salary schedule increases to which each teacher
16 is otherwise entitled.

17 G. No school district or any member of the board of education
18 of a district shall be liable for the payment of compensation to a
19 teacher or administrator under the provisions of any contract for
20 the ensuing year, if it becomes necessary to close the school
21 because of insufficient attendance, disorganization, annexation,
22 consolidation, or by dispensing with the school according to law,
23 provided, such cause is known or action is taken prior to July 1 of
24 such ensuing year.

1 H. No school district or any member of a board of education
2 shall be liable for the payment of compensation to any teacher or
3 administrator for the unexpired term of any contract if the school
4 building to which the teacher or administrator has been assigned is
5 destroyed by accident, storm, fire, or otherwise and it becomes
6 necessary to close the school because of inability to secure a
7 suitable building or buildings for continuation of school. Teachers
8 and administrators shall be entitled to pay for any time lost when
9 school is closed on account of epidemics or otherwise when an order
10 for such closing has been issued by a health officer authorized by
11 law to issue the order.

12 I. A teacher may contract with more than one school district
13 for the same school year as provided in Section 5-106A of this
14 title.

15 J. A board of education shall have authority to enter into
16 written contracts for the ensuing fiscal year prior to the beginning
17 of the year with persons who are not certified ~~or licensed~~ to teach
18 by the State Board of Education as long as the person is actively in
19 the process of securing certification ~~or licensure~~. The person
20 shall not be allowed to teach in a classroom until the person has
21 met or completed all of the requirements for ~~licensure or~~
22 certification as provided for in Section 6-190 of this title. If
23 the person has not obtained valid certification ~~or licensure~~ by the
24

1 first day of the ensuing school year, the contract shall be
2 terminated.

3 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-101.3, as
4 amended by Section 1, Chapter 373, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
5 Section 6-101.3), is amended to read as follows:

6 Section 6-101.3 As used in Section 6-101 et seq. of this title:

7 1. "Administrator" means a duly certified person who devotes a
8 majority of time to service as a superintendent, elementary
9 superintendent, principal, supervisor, vice principal or in any
10 other administrative or supervisory capacity in the school district;

11 2. "Dismissal" means the discontinuance of the teaching service
12 of an administrator or teacher during the term of a written
13 contract, as provided by law;

14 3. "Nonreemployment" means the nonrenewal of the contract of an
15 administrator or teacher upon expiration of the contract;

16 4. "Career teacher" means a teacher who:

17 a. for teachers employed by a school district prior to
18 full implementation of the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader
19 Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in
20 Section 6-101.10 of this title, has completed three
21 (3) or more consecutive complete school years as a
22 teacher in one school district under a written
23 continuing or temporary teaching contract, or
24

b. for teachers employed for the first time by a school district under a written continuing or temporary teaching contract after full implementation of the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in Section 6-101.10 of this title:

(1) has completed three (3) consecutive complete school years as a teacher in one school district under a written continuing or temporary teaching contract and has achieved a rating of "superior" as measured pursuant to the TLE as set forth in Section 6-101.16 of this title for at least two (2) of the three (3) school years, with no rating below "effective",

(2) has completed four (4) consecutive complete school years as a teacher in one school district under a written continuing or temporary teaching contract, has averaged a rating of at least "effective" as measured pursuant to the TLE for the four-year period, and has received a rating of at least "effective" for the last two (2) years of the four-year period, or

(3) has completed four (4) or more consecutive complete school years in one school district

1 under a written continuing or temporary teaching
2 contract and has not met the requirements of
3 subparagraph a or b of this paragraph, only if
4 the principal of the school at which the teacher
5 is employed submits a petition to the
6 superintendent of the school district requesting
7 that the teacher be granted career status, the
8 superintendent agrees with the petition, and the
9 school district board of education approves the
10 petition. The principal shall specify in the
11 petition the underlying facts supporting the
12 granting of career status to the teacher;

13 5. "Teacher hearing" means the hearing before a school district
14 board of education after a recommendation for dismissal or
15 nonreemployment of a teacher has been made but before any final
16 action is taken on the recommendation, held for the purpose of
17 affording the teacher all rights guaranteed by the United States
18 Constitution and the Constitution of Oklahoma under circumstances
19 and for enabling the board to determine whether to approve or
20 disapprove the recommendation;

21 6. "Probationary teacher" means a teacher who:

- 22 a. for teachers employed by a school district prior to
23 full implementation of the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader
24 Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in

1 Section 6-101.10 of this title, has completed fewer
2 than three (3) consecutive complete school years as a
3 teacher in one school district under a written
4 teaching contract, or

5 b. for teachers employed for the first time by a school
6 district under a written teaching contract after full
7 implementation of the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader
8 Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in
9 Section 6-101.10 of this title, has not met the
10 requirements for career teacher as provided in
11 paragraph 4 of this section;

12 7. "Suspension" or "suspended" means the temporary
13 discontinuance of the services of an administrator or teacher, as
14 provided by law; and

15 8. "Teacher" means a duly certified ~~or licensed~~ person who is
16 employed to serve as a counselor, librarian or school nurse or in
17 any instructional capacity; an administrator shall be considered a
18 teacher only with regard to service in an instructional,
19 nonadministrative capacity.

20 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-101.40, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 6-101.40 A support employee who has been employed by a
23 local board of education for more than one (1) year shall be subject
24 to suspension, demotion, termination or nonreemployment only for

1 cause, as designated by the policy of the local board of education,
2 adopted as provided in Section 6-101.43 of this title. This section
3 shall not be construed to prevent layoffs for lack of funds or work.
4 For purposes of this act, "support employee" means a full-time
5 employee of a school district as determined by the standard period
6 of labor which is customarily understood to constitute full-time
7 employment for the type of services performed by the employee who is
8 employed a minimum of one hundred seventy-two (172) days and who
9 provides those services, not performed by professional educators or
10 ~~licensed~~ certified teachers, which are necessary for the efficient
11 and satisfactory functioning of a school district and shall not
12 include adult education instructors or adult coordinators employed
13 by technology center school districts.

14 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as
15 amended by Section 1, Chapter 76, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
16 Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an
18 alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes
19 application to the Board and meets all of the following criteria:

20 1. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution
21 whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for
22 Higher Education and has attained a retention grade point average of
23 not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale;

24

1 2. Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area
2 of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a
3 Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical certificate;

4 3. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by
5 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)
6 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject
7 matter of the professional education component of an alternative
8 placement program. The number of clock or semester hours required
9 for the professional education component of an alternative placement
10 program needed to qualify for standard certification shall be as
11 follows:

- 12 a. baccalaureate degree, eighteen (18) semester hours or
13 two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or
14 b. postbaccalaureate degree, twelve (12) semester hours
15 or one hundred eighty (180) clock hours.

16 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six
17 (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours for the professional
18 education component.

19 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
20 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
21 subsection E of this section;

22 4. Has passed the general education and subject area portions
23 of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this
24

1 title in the area of specialization for which certification is
2 sought; and

3 5. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
4 district in this state offering employment in the area of
5 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
6 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
7 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
8 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
9 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
10 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
11 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
12 of the certificate shall be considered a resident teacher for the
13 purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

14 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
15 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
16 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district
17 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
18 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
19 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
20 placement program.

21 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

22 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
23 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
24 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the

1 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
2 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed
3 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
4 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

5 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an
6 Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard
7 certification requirements within three (3) years;

8 3. Participate in the Residency Program, established in Section
9 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
10 other resident teachers, except those persons who hold a
11 certificate; and

12 4. Except for persons participating in the federal Troops To
13 Teachers Program, document at least two (2) years of work experience
14 which is related to the subject area of specialization if the person
15 has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a
16 related area.

17 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
18 requirements for ~~licensure~~ and certification and, upon demonstration
19 by an individual of specific competency in the subject area of
20 specialization, may grant a ~~license or~~ certificate to the
21 individual. The State Board may establish other requirements
22 necessary to grant exceptions.

1 E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
2 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
3 for standard certification.

4 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
5 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
6 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
7 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be
8 limited to ninety (90) clock hours of classroom teaching per
9 semester.

10 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
11 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
12 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
13 in the alternative placement programs offered by the Institution.

14 H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
15 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any
16 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in
17 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
18 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,
19 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
20 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
21 section to be:

22 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
23 qualification; and
24

1 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
2 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
3 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
4 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate.
5 Any person seeking standard certification through an alternative
6 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
7 during regular semesters if offered.

8 I. The criteria specified in subsection H of this section can
9 be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more
10 institutions of higher education.

11 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.6, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-122.6 A. The State Board of Education shall issue a
14 one-year, nonrenewable secondary or middle level ~~license~~ certificate
15 to teach to any person who has attained certification by an
16 alternative teacher certification organization as set forth in
17 subsection C of this section and has on file with the Board a
18 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State
19 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history
20 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
21 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the
22 Board may issue a temporary ~~license~~ certificate which shall be
23 effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal
24

1 history record. The person applying for a ~~license~~ certificate shall
2 be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

3 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6-195 of ~~Title 70~~
4 ~~of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, teachers issued a ~~license~~
5 certificate pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the
6 requirements of the residency program, but shall participate in the
7 mentoring program provided by the alternative teacher certification
8 organization as set forth in subsection C of this section. Upon
9 successful completion of such mentoring program, the teacher shall
10 be issued a certificate to teach by the State Board of Education
11 after completion of the application and payment of the certification
12 fee as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

13 C. For purposes of this section, the State Board of Education
14 shall identify an alternative teacher certification organization
15 that was founded with grant funding from the United States
16 Department of Education and that developed the Passport to Teaching
17 program, which is a certification program designed for professionals
18 who want to change careers and become teachers. The program shall
19 require candidates to hold a bachelor's degree, pass a professional
20 teaching knowledge exam, pass a subject area exam, and pass a
21 background check. The organization shall provide candidates with
22 access to workshops, an experienced teacher-advisor, and optional
23 access to comprehensive subject matter refresher courses. The
24

1 organization shall also provide an intensive mentoring and induction
2 program.

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

5 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-182, as
6 amended by Section 8, Chapter 223, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
7 Section 6-182), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

10 2. "Commission" means ~~the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
11 ~~Preparation until July 1, 2014, and beginning July 1, 2014, means~~
12 the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability;

13 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
14 Education;

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

18 5. "Professional development program" means the program
19 mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous
20 improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of
21 this state;

22 ~~6.~~ 5. "Teacher education professional development committee"
23 means the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the

24

1 continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in
2 teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

3 ~~7.~~ 6. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

4 ~~8.~~ 7. "Residency committee" means a committee in a school
5 district for the purpose of ~~reviewing the teaching performance of a~~
6 ~~resident teacher and making recommendations to the Board and the~~
7 ~~preparing institution of higher education regarding certification of~~
8 ~~the resident teacher~~ providing professional support, mentorship and
9 coaching to the resident teacher. A residency committee ~~shall~~ may
10 consist of ~~a~~ one or more mentor ~~teacher~~ teachers, the principal or
11 an assistant principal of the employing school ~~or an administrator,~~
12 one or more administrators designated by the school district board
13 ~~and of education,~~ a teacher educator in a college or school of
14 education of an institution of higher education, ~~or~~ or an educator in a
15 department or school outside the institution's teacher education
16 unit. ~~Provided that, if available~~ If possible, qualified mentor
17 teachers shall have expertise in the teaching field of the resident
18 teacher and, if possible, the higher education members of the
19 residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the
20 teaching field of the resident teacher. However, in all cases, at
21 least one member of the residency committee shall have expertise and
22 experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher;

23 ~~9.~~ 8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section
24 1-116 of this title;

1 ~~10.~~ 9. "Resident teacher" means any ~~licensed~~ certified teacher
2 who is employed in an accredited school to serve as a teacher and
3 the school district has elected to place under the guidance and
4 assistance of a mentor teacher and residency committee. The
5 resident teacher shall have completed the program of the college or
6 school of education of the accredited institution of higher
7 education from which the person has been graduated, and shall have
8 successfully completed the competency examination in areas of
9 approval in which the resident teacher seeks certification;

10 ~~11.~~ 10. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been
11 issued a certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma
12 Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

13 ~~12.~~ 11. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher holding a standard
14 certificate who is employed in a school district to serve as a
15 teacher and who has been appointed to provide guidance, support,
16 coaching and assistance to a resident teacher employed by the school
17 district. A mentor teacher shall be a classroom teacher and have a
18 minimum of two (2) years of classroom teaching experience as a
19 certified teacher.

20 A mentor teacher shall be selected by the principal from a list
21 of qualified teacher volunteers who have submitted their names for
22 that purpose. After compilation of the list, the principal shall
23 provide opportunity for input from the bargaining agent, where one
24 exists. Membership or nonmembership in a professional teacher

1 organization shall not be considered as a factor in selecting a
2 mentor teacher. ~~No teacher may serve as a mentor teacher for more~~
3 ~~than one resident teacher at a time.~~ When possible, a mentor
4 teacher shall have successfully completed a mentor teacher
5 professional development institute and be assigned to the same
6 school site and have similar certification as the resident teacher;

7 ~~13.~~ 12. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is
8 employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher
9 education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the
10 preparation of education personnel; and

11 ~~14.~~ 13. "Competency examination" means the assessment required
12 in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for ~~licensure and~~
13 certification as a teacher and shall consist of tests over general
14 education, professional education and subject areas as defined by
15 the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation until July 1, 2014,~~
16 ~~and beginning July 1, 2014, as defined by the~~ Commission for
17 Educational Quality and Accountability.

18 SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-184, as
19 amended by Section 9, Chapter 223, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
20 Section 6-184), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 6-184. A. Beginning July 1, 1997 through July 1, 2014,
22 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall have authority
23 for approval and accreditation of teacher education programs and for
24 assessment of candidates for ~~licensure and~~ certification according

1 to the provisions of the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. As part
2 of this duty the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

- 3 1. Include the State Board of Education in the process;
- 4 2. Review and assess approved, accredited and new programs of
5 teacher education; and
- 6 3. Encourage studies and research designed to improve teacher
7 education.

8 B. Until July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule pertaining to
9 approval or accreditation of teacher education programs or
10 assessment of candidates for ~~licensure~~ and certification, the
11 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall solicit comments
12 from the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for
13 Higher Education and the State Board of Career and Technology
14 Education on the proposed rule. Within forty-five (45) days of the
15 receipt of the proposed rule from the Oklahoma Commission for
16 Teacher Preparation, the State Board of Education, the State Regents
17 and the State Board of Career and Technology Education shall
18 separately review the proposed rule and return their recommendations
19 to the Commission on the proposed adoption. Each recommendation
20 shall include the rationale for the recommendation. The Oklahoma
21 Commission for Teacher Preparation shall accord the recommendations
22 due deliberation in its subsequent consideration of the adoption of
23 each proposed rule. If the action of the Commission on a proposed
24 rule is not consistent with the recommendation made by any of the

1 reviewing entities, within ten (10) days of the Oklahoma Commission
2 for Teacher Preparation's formal action on the rule, the Commission
3 shall submit a report providing justification for its actions to the
4 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability.

5 C. Until July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education, the
6 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of
7 Career and Technology Education shall also have authority to
8 recommend to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation rules
9 for teacher education program approval and accreditation and rules
10 for teacher assessment. Any such rule recommended shall be
11 considered by the Commission within sixty (60) days of receipt of
12 the rule by the same process provided in subsection A of this
13 section for rules proposed by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
14 Preparation.

15 D. Until July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule pertaining to
16 teacher ~~licensure and~~ certification, residency or professional
17 development, the State Board of Education shall solicit comments
18 from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, the Oklahoma
19 State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of Career and
20 Technology Education on the proposed rule. Within forty-five (45)
21 days of the receipt of a proposed rule from the State Board of
22 Education, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, the
23 State Regents and the State Board of Career and Technology Education
24 shall separately review the proposed rule and return their

1 recommendations to the Board on the proposed adoption. Each
2 recommendation shall include the rationale for the recommendation.
3 The State Board of Education shall accord the recommendations due
4 deliberation in its subsequent consideration of the adoption of each
5 rule. If the action of the State Board of Education on a proposed
6 rule is not consistent with the recommendation made by any of the
7 reviewing entities, within ten (10) days of the State Board of
8 Education's formal action on the rule, the State Board of Education
9 shall submit a report providing justification for its action to the
10 Education Oversight Board.

11 E. Until July 1, 2014, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
12 Preparation, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
13 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall have authority
14 to recommend to the State Board of Education rules for adoption in
15 the areas of teacher ~~licensure~~ and certification, residency and
16 professional development. Any such rule recommended shall be
17 considered by the State Board of Education within sixty (60) days of
18 the receipt of the rule by the same process provided in subsection C
19 of this section for rules proposed by the State Board of Education.

20 F. Beginning July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education, the
21 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of
22 Career and Technology Education shall have the authority to submit
23 proposed rules regarding teacher education program approval,
24 accreditation, and for teacher assessment to the Commission for

1 Educational Quality and Accountability. All proposed rules shall be
2 considered by the Commission within sixty (60) days of receipt of
3 the proposed rule. The proposed rules shall be considered by the
4 Commission in the same process provided in subsection B of this
5 section for rules proposed by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
6 Preparation.

7 G. Beginning July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule pertaining
8 to teacher leadership and effectiveness or professional development,
9 the State Board of Education shall solicit comments from the
10 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, the Oklahoma
11 State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of Career and
12 Technology Education on the proposed rule. Within forty-five (45)
13 days of the receipt of a proposed rule from the State Board of
14 Education, the Commission for Educational Quality and
15 Accountability, the State Regents and the State Board of Career and
16 Technology Education shall separately review the proposed rule and
17 return their recommendations to the Board on the proposed rule.
18 Each recommendation shall include the rationale for the
19 recommendation. The State Board of Education shall accord the
20 recommendations due deliberation in its subsequent consideration of
21 the adoption of each rule.

22 SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-185, as
23 amended by Section 10, Chapter 223, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
24 Section 6-185), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 6-185. A. The following competencies and methods shall
2 be incorporated into the programs approved by the Oklahoma
3 Commission for Teacher Preparation until July 1, 2014, and approved
4 by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
5 beginning July 1, 2014, for the competency-based teacher preparation
6 system provided for the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

7 1. The teacher preparation system shall include, but not be
8 limited to, the following competencies:

- 9 a. excellence in the arts and sciences,
- 10 b. an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter to be
11 taught,
- 12 c. the ability to identify and cultivate talent and
13 potential in students,
- 14 d. an understanding of child and human development,
- 15 e. teaching skills developed through a variety of
16 learning experiences,
- 17 f. the ability to interact effectively with all students,
- 18 g. skills necessary for working with parents, guardians
19 and custodians of students in the education process,
- 20 h. skills necessary to involve the community in
21 education,
- 22 i. skills to foster teamwork within and among schools,
- 23 j. for administrators, skills necessary to be an
24 effective leader of a school or school district, and

1 k. skills in effective classroom management and student
2 discipline;

3 2. The preservice program shall include the following methods
4 to achieve the competencies listed in paragraph 1 of this
5 subsection:

6 a. require teacher candidates to study arts and sciences
7 at the undergraduate level,

8 b. require secondary and elementary/secondary teacher
9 candidates to have undergraduate majors, or their
10 equivalents, in a subject area, and require teacher
11 candidates in early childhood, elementary, and special
12 education to have subject area concentrations which
13 allow qualification as a generalist,

14 c. require teacher candidates to study the individuality
15 of students, the capacity of students to learn and the
16 process of learning,

17 d. integrate curriculum from other disciplines with the
18 education curriculum,

19 e. require teacher candidates to have training
20 experiences and personal contact with parents,
21 guardians or custodians of school-age children,

22 f. require teacher candidates to have community
23 involvement experience,
24

g. structure courses so as to require teamwork activities, and

h. require teacher candidates to study, in existing coursework, substance abuse symptoms identification and prevention, mental illness symptoms identification and mental health issues, classroom management skills, and classroom safety and discipline techniques;

3. Until July 1, 2014, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall not require more than a four-year program of one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours to complete a teacher education degree.

B. It is the intent of the Legislature that institutions of higher education which offer teacher education programs hold such programs accountable for meeting the ~~licensure~~ and certification competencies approved by the State Board of Education. It is the intent of the Legislature that the teacher education programs incorporate a curriculum to achieve the competency-based system and include integration of the teacher preparation curricula with the arts and sciences departments curricula. Each institution of higher education which seeks accreditation or approval for its teacher education program shall develop an institution plan which follows the State Board of Education competencies for ~~licensure~~ and certification. In developing such institution plans, the higher

1 education institution shall establish a process which seeks
2 information and input from teacher preparation faculty, faculty from
3 arts and sciences and other programs and disciplines which are
4 appropriate, students within the teacher education program,
5 teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or custodians of
6 students and business and community leaders. Until July 1, 2014,
7 each institution shall report annually to the Oklahoma Commission
8 for Teacher Preparation and beginning July 1, 2013, to the
9 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability the procedures
10 used to inform the public regarding the institution's teacher
11 education program and the manner through which public input is
12 solicited and received. The institution's plan shall be accessible
13 to any interested party under the Oklahoma Open Records Act. No
14 institution of higher education's teacher education program shall be
15 approved by the Commission unless the institution plan has been
16 approved by that institution's governing board. The Oklahoma State
17 Regents for Higher Education may facilitate the development of
18 institution plans to assist institutions of higher education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 B. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall work
13 with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various
14 institutions of higher education in developing guidelines for a paid
15 teacher internship program which may be offered at each institution
16 for prospective teachers. The purpose of each program shall be to
17 provide mentorship and support for prospective teachers. Students
18 enrolled in a teacher education program shall be eligible to
19 participate in the program. Only students who have completed the
20 minimum nonsalaried teacher internship requirement as established by
21 the institution shall be eligible to participate in the paid teacher
22 internship program.

23 C. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature
24 that the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation work with the

1 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various
2 institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby
3 full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional
4 development during their tenure at an institution of higher
5 education to ensure that the future teachers of this state are
6 taught by professional educators fully trained in their area of
7 expertise. Each approved or accredited program of teacher education
8 shall have a system for documenting and reporting the annual
9 professional development activities of all teacher education faculty
10 members. Faculty professional development reports shall be reviewed
11 by the Commission along with professional development activities as
12 a normal part of the accreditation process.

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

- 16 1. Professional development programs;
- 17 2. Higher education courses;
- 18 3. Exchange programs with public school classroom teachers,
19 administrators, and other school personnel; and
- 20 4. Programs whereby all full-time teacher education faculty
21 members directly involved in the teacher education process,
22 including all administrators of the teacher education program, are
23 required to serve in a state accredited public school for at least
24

1 ten (10) clock hours per school year in responsibilities related to
2 their respective teacher education teaching fields.

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

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

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

1 SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, as
2 last amended by Section 3, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp.
3 2013, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

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

15 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
16 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
17 confidentiality of examinations.

18 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for ~~licensing~~
19 certification until successfully completing the competency
20 examination except those candidates who make application to the
21 State Board and meet the criteria for the alternative placement
22 program pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification
23 shall be limited to areas of approval in which the ~~licensed or~~
24 certified teacher has successfully completed the examination.

1 Subject to the provisions of subsection C of this section, testing
2 for certification for subjects in which a teacher candidate or
3 teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an endorsement to
4 teach shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

5 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
6 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
7 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

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

12 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,
13 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
14 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
15 approved by the Commission.

16 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may
17 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the
18 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
19 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher
20 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified
21 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in
22 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area
23 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who
24 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited

1 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or
2 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law
3 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the
4 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through
5 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
6 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
7 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the
8 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
9 appropriate subject area portion of the examination.

10 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
11 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
12 Commission.

13 E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
14 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
15 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
16 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
17 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
18 provisional or standard certificate ~~or who is licensed in the~~
19 ~~teaching profession~~. In the event a district is unable to hire an
20 individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document
21 efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard
22 certificate ~~or with a license~~ in another curricular area with
23 academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these
24 alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to

1 employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the
2 State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

3 SECTION 14. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-189, as
4 amended by Section 1, Chapter 360, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
5 Section 6-189), is amended to read as follows:

6 Section 6-189. A. The ~~licensure and~~ certification system
7 required by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act as part of the new
8 teacher preparation system shall be competency-based. The
9 competencies for ~~licensure and~~ certification shall be integrated
10 with competencies specified in Section 6-185 of this title. By July
11 1, 1996, the State Board of Education shall adopt general
12 competencies for ~~licensure and~~ certification, and by January 1,
13 1997, the Board shall have adopted full competencies and implemented
14 the ~~licensure and certification systems~~ system as required in this
15 act. No higher education courses or credit hours may be specified
16 by the State Board of Education in rules for ~~licensure or~~
17 certification. Nothing in the ~~licensure and~~ certification rules
18 adopted by the Board shall prohibit the Oklahoma State Regents for
19 Higher Education from adopting policies and procedures it deems
20 appropriate for coursework, grade point average, or credit hours for
21 teacher preparation at institutions in The Oklahoma State System of
22 Higher Education.

1 B. The certification requirements for a school principal not
2 alternatively certified under subsection D of this section shall
3 include not less than:

4 1. Completion of a standard master's degree;

5 2. Completion of a program in education administration approved
6 by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation with an emphasis
7 on curriculum, instruction and building-level leadership skills;

8 3. Any other professional education and requirements as may be
9 fixed by the State Board of Education;

10 4. A passing score on the subject area competency examination
11 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

12 5. A minimum of two (2) years of successful teaching experience
13 in public or private schools accredited by the State Board of
14 Education or by the proper accrediting authority of another state of
15 the United States.

16 C. The certification requirements for a superintendent of
17 schools not alternatively certified under subsection D of this
18 section shall include not less than:

19 1. Certification as a school principal or completion of the
20 certification requirements for a school principal as set forth in
21 subsection B of this section;

22 2. Completion of a program in education administration approved
23 by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation with an emphasis
24

1 on district-level leadership skills, and which shall include the
2 following competencies:

- 3 a. instructional leadership,
- 4 b. organizational leadership, including education
5 finance, education law, and risk management,
- 6 c. collaborative and community leadership, and
- 7 d. ethical leadership, or

8 The requirement in this paragraph shall not apply to any person
9 who has completed an Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation
10 approved Master's Degree in Education Administration or has
11 completed a program in education administration that included
12 competencies that are substantially equal to those listed in this
13 paragraph, and if the degree or program was completed between the
14 effective date of this act and July 1, 2005;

15 3. Any other professional education and requirements as may be
16 fixed by the State Board of Education;

17 4. A passing score on the subject area competency examination
18 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

19 5. A minimum of two (2) years of administrative experience in
20 public or private schools accredited by the State Board of Education
21 or by the proper accrediting authority of another state of the
22 United States.

23 D. 1. The standards for alternative certification for
24 superintendents of schools and principals shall include:

- a. the completion of a standard master's degree,
- b. two (2) years of relevant work experience in a supervisory or administrative capacity,
- c. a passing score on the subject area competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title, and
- d. filing with the director of teacher education at an Oklahoma accredited institution of higher education a plan for completing an alternative administrative preparation program within three (3) years. Relevant work experience and coursework may be considered and applied to complete the plan.

2. An alternative certificate for superintendent of schools and principals shall not exceed three (3) years and shall not be renewable.

3. Upon successful completion of an alternative administrative preparation program by a participant, the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate for superintendent or principal, as applicable, to the applicant.

4. Any person participating in an alternative certification program for superintendent of schools and principals on the effective date of this act shall be subject to the program requirements in effect prior to the effective date of this act.

1 E. The certification requirements for a superintendent of a
2 technology center school district shall include not less than a
3 standard master's degree, any other professional education
4 requirements as may be fixed by the State Board of Education, and a
5 minimum of four (4) years teaching, supervisory or administrative
6 experience, which may include teaching of full-time adult students,
7 in a technology center school district. A person meeting the
8 requirements set forth in subsection C of this section shall be
9 eligible for a certificate for superintendent of a technology center
10 school district.

11 F. Certificates may be revoked by the State Board of Education
12 for willful violation of any rule of the Board or of any federal or
13 state law or other proper cause but only after sufficient hearing
14 has been given before the Board.

15 G. Teaching in a Head Start program or programs shall be used
16 for renewal of a standard teaching certificate.

17 SECTION 15. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-189.1, as
18 amended by Section 1, Chapter 8, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
19 Section 6-189.1), is amended to read as follows:

20 Section 6-189.1 A. Beginning July 1, 2000, no school district
21 shall employ any teacher to teach mathematics in grades seven or
22 eight, unless the teacher is ~~licensed or~~ certified to teach middle
23 or secondary level mathematics or has received middle level
24 endorsement pursuant to subsection B of this section. ~~A school~~

~~district may employ a teacher without such a license, certificate,
or endorsement until September 1, 2003, if the teacher became
licensed or certified to teach prior to September 1, 1999.~~

B. Any teacher who became ~~licensed or~~ certified to teach prior to September 1, 1999, does not have middle or secondary level certification in mathematics, and is serving in a school as a mathematics teacher for grades seven or eight shall be required to obtain middle level certification or middle level endorsement before September 1, 2003. For such teachers, middle level certification or middle level endorsement may be obtained as follows:

1. Middle level mathematics certification - A teacher may obtain middle level certification by successfully completing the appropriate Oklahoma Subject Area Test for middle level mathematics administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. The teacher shall not be required to take the Oklahoma Professional Teacher Examination for secondary students administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. A teacher granted middle level certification pursuant to this paragraph shall be entitled to teach mathematics in grades seven and eight for high school graduation credit; and

2. Middle level endorsement - A teacher may obtain a middle level endorsement by successfully completing a professional development institute in middle level mathematics developed and administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

1 Any professional development institute developed pursuant to this
2 paragraph shall meet the criteria as established in subsection H of
3 this section. A teacher granted middle level endorsement pursuant
4 to this paragraph shall not be entitled to teach mathematics for
5 high school graduation credit.

6 C. Any teacher serving in a school as a mathematics teacher for
7 grade six may obtain middle level endorsement by successfully
8 completing a professional development institute in middle level
9 mathematics developed pursuant to this section. Such teacher shall
10 be eligible to participate in a professional development institute
11 in middle level mathematics developed and administered by the
12 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation one time free of charge.

13 D. Any teacher seeking middle level certification or middle
14 level endorsement pursuant to subsection B of this section shall be
15 eligible to take the Oklahoma Subject Area Test in middle level
16 mathematics one time free of charge after July 1, 2000, or
17 participate in a professional development institute in middle level
18 mathematics developed and administered by the Oklahoma Commission
19 for Teacher Preparation one time free of charge after July 1, 2000.

20 E. A teacher who is granted middle level certification in
21 mathematics, pursuant to subsection B of this section, may teach
22 grade nine only if the teacher successfully completes the Oklahoma
23 Professional Teacher Examination for secondary students.

1 F. A teacher who is granted middle level endorsement pursuant
2 to subsection B or C of this section may teach mathematics courses
3 in grades seven or eight for high school credit only if the teacher
4 has completed a minimum of twenty-four college credit semester hours
5 of mathematics as specified by the State Department of Education.

6 G. Any teacher who became ~~licensed or~~ certified to teach prior
7 to September 1, 1999, did not have middle or secondary level
8 certification in mathematics and successfully completed the
9 appropriate Oklahoma Subject Area Test for middle level mathematics
10 between July 1, 1999, and July 1, 2000, shall be granted a middle
11 level certificate pursuant to subsection B of this section.

12 H. 1. Any professional development institute in middle level
13 mathematics developed pursuant to this section and administered by
14 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

- 15 a. consist of a minimum of thirty (30) clock hours,
- 16 b. be competency based,
- 17 c. emphasize effective learning practices,
- 18 d. require collaboration among participants, and
- 19 e. require each participant to prepare a work product
20 which can be utilized in the classroom by the
21 participant.

22 2. Any professional development institute in middle level
23 mathematics developed pursuant to this section and administered by
24 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall be chosen

1 through a competitive bid process, be reviewed by a professional
2 development committee and other constituencies, and be subject to
3 peer review. Invitations to bid for a professional development
4 institute shall be open to any public or private entity.

5 I. Beginning July 1, 2013, any teacher with certification or
6 endorsement to teach at the secondary level may teach the subject
7 area in which the teacher has received certification or endorsement
8 in grades five and six.

9 SECTION 16. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-189.2, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Section 6-189.2 A. Any person seeking ~~licensure or~~
12 certification as a school psychologist or school psychometrist shall
13 be exempt from the requirement to successfully complete the general
14 education and professional education portions of the competency
15 examination required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-190 of ~~Title~~
16 ~~70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

17 B. Any person certified as a school psychologist or school
18 psychometrist pursuant to a substitution or exemption as provided in
19 this section shall be required to complete all portions of the
20 competency examination as required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-
21 190 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title if such person
22 seeks to add certification in another subject in the future.

23 C. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall adopt
24 rules to implement the provisions of this section.

1 SECTION 17. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school
4 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in
5 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified ~~or licensed~~
6 to teach by the State Board of Education in accordance with the
7 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for
8 by Section 6-101 of this title and by other law.

9 B. The Board shall issue a ~~license~~ certificate to teach to any
10 person who:

11 1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program
12 required by the ~~State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1997, and~~
13 ~~the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation beginning July 1,~~
14 ~~1997;~~

15 2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher
16 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

17 3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the
18 Board;

19 4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency
20 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

21 5. Has successfully completed the competency examination
22 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

23 6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a
24 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State

1 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history
2 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
3 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the
4 Board may issue a temporary license which shall be effective until
5 receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record.
6 The person applying for a license shall be responsible for the cost
7 of the criminal history records.

8 C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
9 who:

- 10 1. a. ~~holds a license to teach in accordance with the~~
11 ~~Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act,~~
- 12 b. ~~has served a minimum of one (1) school year as a~~
13 ~~resident teacher,~~
- 14 c. ~~has made the necessary application and paid the~~
15 ~~certification fee as prescribed by the Board, and~~
- 16 d. ~~has been recommended for certification by the~~
17 ~~residency committee;~~

18 ~~2.~~ Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets standards set by
19 the Board; or

20 ~~3.~~ 2. Holds certification from the National Board for
21 Professional Teaching Standards.

22 D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial
23 Oklahoma certification ~~who has not applied for and received an~~
24 ~~Oklahoma teacher license~~ shall have on file with the Board a current

1 Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
2 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
3 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
4 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue
5 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of
6 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person
7 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the
8 criminal history records.

9 ~~E. If a resident teacher is a graduate of an out-of-state~~
10 ~~institution of higher education, the recommendation of the residency~~
11 ~~committee shall be made to the State Board of Education.~~

12 ~~F.~~ Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to
13 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the
14 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional
15 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher
16 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

17 SECTION 18. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-192, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 6-192. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the
20 Legislature to establish a professional development procedure
21 whereby all teachers in the state continue their education beyond
22 initial ~~licensing and~~ certification by the state to ensure that the
23 children of the state are taught by professional educators, fully
24 prepared in their areas of expertise. Furthermore, such

1 professional development procedure shall provide alternative means
2 of education, including one or more of the following: In-service
3 programs, higher education courses, or other alternative means of
4 education designed to help teachers enrich their professional
5 abilities.

6 SECTION 19. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as
7 amended by Section 10, Chapter 83, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
8 Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

9 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this
10 state shall establish professional development programs for the
11 certified ~~and licensed~~ teachers and administrators of the district.
12 Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations
13 of a professional development committee appointed by the board of
14 education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30,
15 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may
16 elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for
17 certified ~~and licensed~~ teachers and administrators of the district.
18 If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional
19 development program, the district may expend any monies allocated
20 for professional development for any purpose related to the support
21 and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of
22 education of the school district.

23 B. Each professional development committee shall include
24 classroom teachers, administrators and parents, guardians or

1 custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with
2 a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the
3 professional development committee shall be composed of classroom
4 teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated
5 administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted
6 by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall
7 be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the
8 district. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee
9 shall include at least one school counselor in its membership.

10 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional
11 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach
12 to analyze student data and determine district and school
13 professional development needs. The professional development
14 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of
15 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum
16 areas for the following goals:

- 17 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the
- 18 district and each school site;
- 19 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
- 20 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-
- 21 mandated tests and the ACT;
- 22 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and
- 23 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

1 Each program may also include components on classroom management
2 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or
3 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic
4 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116
5 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis.
6 The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist
7 school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic
8 education components into professional development programs. At
9 least once a year a program shall be offered which includes a
10 component of teacher training on recognition and reporting of child
11 abuse and neglect which all teachers shall be required to complete.
12 Additionally at least one time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010
13 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all
14 resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through
15 grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during
16 the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years
17 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals
18 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be
19 required to complete the autism training at least one time every
20 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum
21 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources
22 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to
23 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school
24 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or

1 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically
2 designed for school counselors.

3 Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional
4 development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited
5 to, professional development provided by the district, any state
6 agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

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

1 be counted toward the total number of points required to maintain
2 employment. If a teacher does not complete some or all of the
3 minimum number of points required for one (1) or both fiscal years,
4 the total number of points required to maintain employment shall be
5 adjusted and reduced by the number of points not completed.

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

17 F. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall
18 develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection E
19 of this section. The Department shall also make such information
20 available on its website.

21 SECTION 20. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-195, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 6-195. A. The State Department of Education shall
24 administer a residency program for teachers which shall be approved

1 by the State Board of Education. ~~Such~~ For the 2014-2015 school
2 year, each school district shall have the option of participating in
3 the residency program. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year
4 each school district shall participate in the residency program.
5 The program shall be developed in consultation with the teacher
6 education institutions, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
7 Preparation and the district boards of education. ~~Such~~ The program
8 shall include, but not be limited to:

9 1. Guidelines and assignments for resident teacher positions in
10 the school districts;

11 2. Requirements and guidelines for selection and appointment of
12 mentor teachers which ~~must~~ shall include any requirements specified
13 in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act;

14 3. Guidelines for the appointment and functions of a residency
15 committee; and

16 4. An appropriate professional development, support, mentorship
17 and coaching program for the resident teacher.

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

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

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

4 ~~3. Has successfully completed the curriculum examination as~~
5 ~~prescribed by the Board prior to July 1, 1997, and the competency~~
6 ~~examination as prescribed by the Commission beginning July 1, 1997.~~

7 ~~C.~~ Any person who has been issued a license certificate to
8 teach by the Board may be employed on a temporary or continuing
9 contract basis as a resident teacher by an accredited school upon
10 appointment by the district board of education or by a private or
11 public provider of early childhood education programs as authorized
12 in Section 11-103.7 of this title.

13 ~~D.~~ C. Upon placement of a licensed certified teacher in a
14 resident teacher position at a public school, the district board of
15 education shall appoint the residency committee members, as
16 prescribed in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, who shall have
17 the following duties:

18 1. Meet with the resident teacher as may be required by the
19 Board;

20 2. Work with the resident teacher to assist in all matters
21 concerning classroom management and professional development for
22 that teacher; and
23
24

1 3. ~~Provide for meaningful parental, guardian or custodian input~~
2 ~~as one criterion in evaluating the resident teacher's performance,~~
3 ~~and~~

4 4. ~~Upon completion of one (1) school year of residency, make~~
5 ~~recommendations to the Board and the preparing institution of higher~~
6 ~~education as to whether the resident teacher should be issued a~~
7 ~~certificate or whether such resident teacher shall be required to~~
8 ~~serve as a resident teacher for one (1) additional school year. In~~
9 ~~the event a resident teacher serves a second year, the~~
10 ~~recommendation of the residency committee to the Board and the~~
11 ~~institution of higher education after the second year shall be for~~
12 ~~either certification or noncertification.~~

13 ~~Upon recommendation from the residency committee for~~
14 ~~noncertification or an additional year in the residency program,~~
15 ~~such residency committee shall, upon request of the resident~~
16 ~~teacher, supply a list to the resident teacher of the reasons for~~
17 ~~such recommendation. The list of reasons shall remain confidential,~~
18 ~~except as otherwise provided by the resident teacher.~~

19 ~~In the event a resident teacher is required to serve an~~
20 ~~additional year in the residency program, the resident teacher shall~~
21 ~~not be required to be under the supervision of the same residency~~
22 ~~committee, or any member of the committee, which supervised the~~
23 ~~resident teacher during the initial year in the program; and~~

1 ~~5. In the event the committee recommendation to the Board and~~
2 ~~the institution of higher education is for certification, a~~
3 ~~residency committee shall also recommend a professional development~~
4 ~~program for the resident teacher, designed to strengthen the~~
5 ~~resident teacher's teaching skills in any area identified by the~~
6 ~~committee~~ Provide professional support, mentorship and coaching for
7 the resident teacher.

8 D. All resident years shall count toward salary, fringe benefit
9 adjustments, career status and retirement.

10 E. Upon employment of a ~~licensed~~ certified teacher in a
11 resident teacher position by a private or public provider of early
12 childhood education programs pursuant to a contract as authorized in
13 Section 11-103.7 of this title and upon employment of a teacher with
14 an alternative placement teaching certificate, the district board of
15 education shall appoint the residency committee members, as
16 prescribed in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. The residency
17 committee members shall have the same duties as prescribed in
18 subsection D of this section.

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

22 G. The professional development program shall commence with the
23 residency year and shall require continuing education throughout the
24 career of a teacher.

1 ~~G. For the 2003-04 school year, if the district board of~~
2 ~~education is unable to find a teacher willing to serve as a mentor~~
3 ~~teacher, the district may leave the position of mentor teacher on~~
4 ~~the residency committee unfilled. If the district leaves the~~
5 ~~position unfilled, the remaining members of the residency committee~~
6 ~~may carry out the duties of the committee.~~

7 SECTION 21. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-195.2, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 6-195.2 A. Subject to the availability of funds, the
10 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall develop and
11 administer mathematics professional development programs which will
12 be provided for any teacher who became ~~licensed or~~ certified to
13 teach in elementary education or early childhood education prior to
14 July 1, 2001, and is serving as a teacher in a public school in this
15 state in kindergarten through third grade. The purpose of the
16 professional development program shall be to improve the knowledge
17 and skills of the teachers and to ensure that the elementary grade
18 students of the state are taught by professional educators fully
19 prepared in the area of mathematics.

20 B. Any professional development program offered to teachers
21 pursuant to the provisions of this section shall:

22 1. Be scientifically research-based professional development;
23 and
24

1 2. Meet state law requirements for professional development
2 administered by the Commission.

3 C. The professional development program offered to teachers
4 pursuant to the provisions of this section shall address both
5 content skill and methodology, and may contain a technology
6 component.

7 SECTION 22. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-197, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 6-197. A. All students graduating from an accredited
10 institution of higher education approved or accredited by the
11 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the preparation of
12 educational personnel on or after September 1, 1999, and seeking to
13 enter the public education system as a teacher shall be subject to
14 the assessment, and certification ~~and licensing~~ procedures
15 established in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. Except as
16 provided for in subsection B of this section, all students
17 graduating from an accredited institution of higher education prior
18 to September 1, 1999, and seeking to enter the public education
19 system as a teacher shall be subject to the assessment, ~~licensing~~
20 and certification requirements in effect before July 1, 1997.

21 B. Any person who graduates from an accredited institution of
22 higher education prior to September 1, 1999, and seeks certification
23 or endorsement subsequent to September 1, 1999, to teach a subject
24 area which the teacher was not certified to teach prior to September

1 1, 1999, following completion of the required higher education shall
2 be required to successfully complete the competency examination for
3 such subject area prior to receiving such certification or
4 endorsement.

5 SECTION 23. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-210, as
6 amended by Section 14, Chapter 83, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
7 Section 6-210), is amended to read as follows:

8 Section 6-210. A. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
9 Preparation is authorized to establish the Inner City Schools Rescue
10 program. The purpose of the program shall be to recruit and train
11 ~~licensed or~~ certified teachers to work in inner city schools and to
12 provide technical assistance and support to those teachers who
13 participate in the program and become employed in an inner city
14 school.

15 B. For purposes of this section, an inner city school shall
16 mean a school identified as in need of improvement as determined by
17 the Commission pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act or where
18 ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the students enrolled in the
19 school qualify for the free and reduced lunch program.

20 C. To fulfill the objectives of the Inner City Schools Rescue
21 program the Commission shall:

- 22 1. Inform teachers of the program;
23 2. Collect and review applications for the program from
24 interested teachers; and

1 3. Establish an applicant review committee to identify
2 participants for the program.

3 D. Each year the Commission shall select a certain number of
4 teachers, as determined by the Commission, who have demonstrated a
5 commitment to excellence in teaching and to working with at-risk
6 students in the inner city.

7 E. The Commission shall promulgate rules to implement the
8 provisions of this section.

9 SECTION 24. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 509.2, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Section 509.2 A. The board of education shall recognize an
12 employee organization designated by an election of the employees in
13 an appropriate bargaining unit as the exclusive representative of
14 all the employees in such unit. The members of an employee
15 organization shall be employees as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3
16 of this subsection and Section 1-116 of this title. The recognition
17 of such employee organization shall be made by the board no later
18 than fourteen (14) days after the election. Any person who desires
19 not to be represented by any organization may so state in writing to
20 his or her board of education. Appropriate bargaining units are
21 defined as follows; however, such definition shall not be construed,
22 of itself, as requiring that bargaining units engage in bargaining
23 or act to disengage from bargaining:

1 1. Employees who are employed and certified as principals and
2 assistant principals and who have responsibilities for the
3 supervision of classroom teachers shall constitute an appropriate
4 unit;

5 2. All other employees who are required by the position in
6 which employed to be ~~licensed or~~ certified as teachers ~~or entry year~~
7 ~~teachers as those terms are~~ that term is defined in Section 1-116 of
8 this title and who do not hold supervisory authority with respect to
9 other teachers in the district shall constitute an appropriate unit;
10 and

11 3. All employees who are not required by their job description
12 to be a principal, ~~licensed or~~ certified teacher, superintendent or
13 other certified or noncertified administrator shall constitute a
14 separate bargaining unit. Provided that, employees with access to
15 confidential, labor relations information of the school district, or
16 managerial employees whose responsibilities include making
17 employment recommendations to the superintendent and for which their
18 position does not require a certificate, shall be excluded from this
19 or other bargaining units. Also excluded is any employee position
20 agreed to be excluded from the bargaining unit by the employee
21 organization and the school district.

22 Provided, if employees categorized according to paragraphs 2 and
23 3 of this subsection were organized for bargaining as a single unit
24 as of April 14, 1986, or are at any time employed in a district

1 having fewer than seventy-five employees in the two categories taken
2 together, the employees may, for such time as a majority of the
3 employees in each category indicate by secret ballot vote they share
4 a single community of interest, constitute a single appropriate
5 unit. Further provided, any final judgment of the Supreme Court
6 denying such community of interest in any school district shall have
7 the effect of rendering inappropriate all units, in whatever school
8 districts they exist, which include employees of both categories.

9 B. 1. Within seven (7) business days of receiving a sealed
10 packet containing an employee petition filed by or on behalf of
11 thirty-five percent (35%) or more of the employees in a unit, such
12 petition calling for an election to determine which, if any,
13 employee organization represents the employees in a bargaining unit,
14 the board shall arrange for verification that there are a sufficient
15 number of correct names to constitute at least thirty-five percent
16 (35%) of the employees in the unit. Such arrangements shall include
17 the transmitting of the sealed packet and a list of employees
18 eligible to be included in the bargaining unit to the individual
19 designated pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this
20 subsection.

21 2. The petition calling for the secret ballot election shall
22 contain only the names of employees of the bargaining unit who have
23 signed and dated the petition. Within thirty (30) days of receipt
24 of the sealed packet by the district court judge in and for the

1 county in which the school district has its main office, the sealed
2 packet shall be opened and the petition shall be verified by an
3 individual designated by the district judge of such court for the
4 county in which the school district has its main office. Upon
5 verification of the number of signatures on the petition, the
6 district court judge shall notify in writing the district board of
7 education and any employee organization that has requested notice of
8 the verification. Under no circumstances shall the individual so
9 designated reveal the names of employees who signed or did not sign
10 the petition. If an employee has signed more than one petition, the
11 name of the employee shall be removed from each petition.

12 3. The period of time for signing of a recognition petition
13 shall commence upon receipt of written notification by the school
14 board from an organization indicating that it intends to circulate a
15 petition and shall cease thirty (30) days thereafter. Provided, if
16 an organization recognized as representative of a unit for
17 bargaining is being challenged for discontinuation of representation
18 as provided in paragraph 7 of subsection C of this section or is
19 being challenged by another organization seeking recognition, the
20 period for signing shall commence on the first day of February and
21 end on the last day of that same February.

22 C. 1. Not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty
23 (60) days after receipt of notification that the petition has been
24 verified as sufficient, a secret ballot election shall be held to

1 determine which, if any, employee organization shall represent the
2 unit. No election shall be held for a unit within which a valid
3 election was held in the preceding two (2) years.

4 On or after March 2, 1995, the board shall recognize within ten
5 (10) days an organization which has obtained signed authorization
6 from a majority of the employees eligible to be included in the unit
7 but has not been recognized. No election shall be held for such
8 unit within two (2) years of recognition. An appropriate election
9 ballot shall be printed for this election, which contains the names
10 of all employee organizations having presented a petition verified
11 as signed by at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the employees
12 eligible to be in the unit to represent or currently recognized as
13 representing the unit; provided, no such organization shall be shown
14 on the ballot unless the organization pays to the board a filing fee
15 of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). The ballot shall also
16 provide an option whereby any employee of the unit may indicate a
17 preference that the unit not be represented by any organization.
18 Every organization that receives at least fifteen percent (15%) of
19 the vote in the election shall be reimbursed the Two Hundred Fifty
20 Dollars (\$250.00) by the board. The board shall use any remaining
21 filing fee money to help offset the cost of the validation process
22 of the petition, if any, as well as any election costs incurred.

23 2. When none of the choices on the ballot receives a majority
24 of the votes, a runoff election shall be conducted on the fourteenth

1 day following the first election between the two choices which
2 received the largest number of votes in the preceding election.

3 3. The employee organization or organizations and the school
4 board shall, by agreement, determine the method by which each
5 election shall be conducted. All costs incurred in an election
6 shall be shared equally by all parties involved.

7 If no agreement can be reached by thirty (30) days prior to the
8 election, the board of education shall notify the county election
9 board of the county in which the board is located of such fact, and
10 the following method for conducting the secret ballot election shall
11 be followed and conducted by the county election board:

12 a. At the time of such notice, the board of education
13 shall provide to the county election board:

- 14 (1) a list of all the polling places for the
15 election, such list to include every middle
16 school or junior high school and the central
17 administration office in the district;
- 18 (2) a list of names of all the persons eligible to
19 vote in the election, such list to be in
20 alphabetical order and duplicated in such number
21 that there shall be one for each polling place,
22 plus an additional five copies;
- 23 (3) the names of each organization entitled to have
24 its name appear on the ballot; and

1 (4) the date of the election which shall not be a
2 special election date specified by subsection B
3 of Section 3-101 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma
4 Statutes.

5 b. Ballots for the election shall be printed by the
6 county election board in the same manner as for other
7 elections conducted by the county election board,
8 insofar as is possible. The names of organizations
9 shall be listed on the ballot in the order in which
10 said names are furnished to the county election board
11 by the board of education. The option specifying that
12 no organization shall represent the employee
13 bargaining unit shall be listed last on the ballot, in
14 such language as may be specified by the board.

15 c. The secretary of the county election board shall
16 appoint an inspector, judge and clerk for each polling
17 place. The inspector, judge and clerk shall be
18 selected from among the regular precinct officials in
19 the county.

20 d. Polling places shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00
21 p.m. on the day of the election. Any eligible person
22 who appears to vote no later than 7:00 p.m. shall be
23 entitled to vote.
24

- 1 e. Eligible voters may vote after signing their
2 signatures beside their names on the list of names of
3 all the persons eligible to vote in the election. The
4 voter shall place his or her ballot in the ballot box
5 in the presence of the inspector.
- 6 f. Each organization entitled to have its name appear on
7 the ballot shall be permitted to appoint one
8 challenger at each polling place. Each such
9 challenger shall be properly identified as such, and
10 shall be limited to inquiring of a prospective voter,
11 said prospective voter's name, address, job
12 classification and work site. The challenger may
13 challenge the right of any prospective voter to vote
14 by so informing the judge. Upon being so challenged,
15 the prospective voter may vote if, after being
16 informed by the judge of such a challenge, the voter
17 signs his or her signature beside his or her name on
18 the list of names of all the persons eligible to vote
19 in the election. If same occurs, the judge shall
20 write the words "Challenged by _____" beside the
21 voter's signature.
- 22 g. The county election board shall certify in writing the
23 results of the election to the board of education on
24 the day following the election and on the same day

1 shall mail a copy of the certification to all employee
2 organizations that have requested copies of the
3 certification.

4 h. Costs of the election shall be paid to the county
5 election board by the board of education. The costs
6 shall include the regular salaries of the inspector,
7 judge, and clerk, in addition to all other necessary
8 and reasonable costs. Such costs shall include
9 compensation for members of the county election board,
10 including the secretary.

11 i. Anyone guilty of voting more than one time in the
12 election will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject
13 to a fine of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) or thirty
14 (30) days in the county jail.

15 4. No employee shall use regularly scheduled duty time for
16 campaign purposes.

17 5. A list of the employees eligible to vote in the election
18 including their names, addresses, phone numbers, job classification
19 and work site shall be provided not less than fourteen (14) days
20 before the election to each organization listed on the official
21 ballot.

22 6. Any board or organization challenging the results of any
23 election held pursuant to the provisions of this section shall post
24 with the district court a bond of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)

1 which shall be forfeited if the court finds that the challenge is in
2 bad faith.

3 7. In any February more than two (2) years after recognition of
4 an organization pursuant to the provisions of this section and upon
5 the receipt of a petition calling for discontinuation of
6 representation signed by thirty-five percent (35%) of the employees
7 eligible to be included in the unit, a board shall call an election
8 to determine whether the members of a unit wish to discontinue being
9 represented for bargaining. If a majority of the votes cast are
10 votes to discontinue representation, efforts to gain recognition by
11 any organization shall be prohibited for a period of two (2) years
12 commencing with the expiration of the contract then in force. The
13 ballots used in such election shall, without reference to any
14 organization by name, offer the single choice of continued
15 representation or discontinuation of representation.

16 SECTION 25. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.567,
17 is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1210.567 A. Upon application of a district board of
19 education, the State Board of Education shall authorize an
20 abbreviated day schedule for an alternative school or alternative
21 education program that is or will be administered by the district
22 pursuant to the provisions of this act or for the education provided
23 for students in a residential or treatment facility located within
24 the district. A student assigned to the alternative school, an

1 alternative education program or receiving educational services in a
2 residential or treatment facility within the district who attends
3 for a full abbreviated day shall be counted in attendance for
4 purposes of computing average daily attendance and average daily
5 membership for the district.

6 B. A district board of education may authorize enrollment on a
7 part-time basis utilizing Internet-based courses for students who
8 have dropped out of school or are or have been suspended from
9 school. State Aid shall be calculated for such students based upon
10 the percentage of the total school day in which the student is
11 enrolled multiplied by the appropriate grade level weight pursuant
12 to Section 18-201.1 of this title, provided such student was
13 enrolled at any time in a public school in this state during the
14 previous three (3) school years.

15 C. A district board of education shall hire only ~~licensed or~~
16 certified teachers to teach in an alternative education program or
17 alternative education school offered by the district or to teach
18 students who are in a residential or treatment facility.

19 D. No later than August 1, 1994, the State Board of Education
20 in consultation with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation
21 shall promulgate rules by which a certified teacher who is qualified
22 to teach in an alternative education program or alternative school
23 as determined by the district board of education offering the
24 alternative education program or alternative school or who teaches

1 students in a residential or treatment facility may be certified to
2 teach subjects in which the teacher does not hold certification.

3 The rules shall provide:

4 1. The certification may be granted only upon application of a
5 district board of education offering an alternative education
6 program or alternative school pursuant to the provisions of this act
7 or upon application of a district board of education offering a
8 residential or treatment facility; and

9 2. The teacher's certification in subjects in which the teacher
10 does not otherwise hold certification pursuant to the provisions of
11 this section shall be valid only for purposes of teaching in the
12 alternative education program or alternative school offered by the
13 district board or in a residential or treatment facility located
14 within the district making application.

15 SECTION 26. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.568,
16 is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1210.568 A. Beginning with the first semester of the
18 1996-1997 school year, the State Board of Education shall implement
19 a statewide system of alternative education programs which shall be
20 phased-in within seven (7) years. The statewide system shall
21 include but not be limited to Alternative Approaches grant programs,
22 funded pursuant to Section 1210.561 of this title, and alternative
23 academies or alternative programs implemented pursuant to this
24 section.

1 B. Beginning with the first semester of the 2002-2003 school
2 year, all school districts of this state shall provide alternative
3 education programs that conform to the requirements of statutes and
4 rules applicable to alternative education. A program shall:

5 1. Allow class sizes and student/teacher ratios which are
6 conducive to effective learning for at-risk students;

7 2. Incorporate appropriate structure, curriculum, and
8 interaction and reinforcement strategies designed to provide
9 effective instruction;

10 3. Include an intake and screening process to determine
11 eligibility of students;

12 4. Demonstrate that teaching faculty are appropriately ~~licensed~~
13 ~~or~~ certified teachers;

14 5. Demonstrate that teaching faculty have been selected on the
15 basis of a record of successful work with at-risk students or
16 personal and educational factors that qualify them for work with at-
17 risk students;

18 6. Reflect appropriate collaborative efforts with state
19 agencies and local agencies serving youth;

20 7. Provide courses that meet the academic curricula standards
21 adopted by the State Board of Education and additional remedial
22 courses;

23 8. Offer individualized instruction;

24 9. State clear and measurable program goals and objectives;

1 10. Include counseling and social services components with the
2 provision that providers of services are not required to be
3 certified as school counselors;

4 11. Require a plan leading to graduation be developed for each
5 student in the program which will allow the student to participate
6 in graduation exercises for the school district after meeting the
7 requirements of the school district as specified in the individual
8 graduation plan for that student; provided, for students who enter
9 the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-08 school year, the plan
10 shall specifically address whether the student is required to meet
11 the graduation requirements established in Section 11-103.6 of this
12 title;

13 12. Offer life skills instruction;

14 13. Provide opportunities for arts education to students,
15 including Artists in Residence programs coordinated with the
16 Oklahoma Arts Council;

17 14. Provide a proposed annual budget;

18 15. Include an evaluation component including an annual written
19 self-evaluation;

20 16. Be appropriately designed to serve middle school, junior
21 high school and secondary school students in grades six through
22 twelve who are most at risk of not completing a high school
23 education for a reason other than that identified in Section 13-101
24 of this title; and

1 17. Allow students in the alternative education program, who
2 otherwise meet all of the participation requirements, to participate
3 in vocational programs and extracurricular activities, including but
4 not limited to athletics, band, and clubs.

5 C. The alternative education program of a school district shall
6 be operational and serving students by September 15 of each school
7 year.

8 D. Each alternative education program of a school district
9 shall receive funding based on the combined number of dropouts and
10 students within the district who have been referred to a county
11 juvenile service unit, a county juvenile bureau or who have been
12 committed to the custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs. Each
13 alternative education program shall receive incentive funding as
14 follows:

15 1. For the first year of operation, One Thousand Dollars
16 (\$1,000.00) per student;

17 2. For the second year of operation, Seven Hundred Fifty
18 Dollars (\$750.00) per student; and

19 3. For the third year of operation and each year thereafter,
20 Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) per student.

21 Statewide alternative education funding shall not be used to
22 supplant existing school district resources or to support programs
23 that do not meet all the criteria for the statewide alternative
24 education system. No alternative education program shall receive

1 less than a total of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per school
2 year.

3 E. By September 15 of each school year, all statewide
4 alternative education funds received and expended for students
5 participating in an alternative education program shall be reported
6 to the State Department of Education by major object codes and by
7 program classifications pursuant to the Oklahoma Cost Accounting
8 System as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
9 Section 5-135 of this title.

10 F. Elementary school districts, as defined in Section 5-103 of
11 this title, may request a waiver from the State Board of Education
12 from the requirements of this section to implement and provide an
13 alternative education program. Any elementary school district that
14 has not received funding pursuant to the provisions of subsection D
15 of this section shall be automatically granted a waiver. If a
16 school district is granted a waiver, no statewide alternative
17 education funding shall be allocated to the district.

18 G. 1. The State Board of Education shall contract for
19 technical assistance for operation of an Alternative Education
20 Technical Assistance Center. The technical assistance provider
21 shall be an entity located in Oklahoma that has been officially
22 recognized by the United States Department of Education to assess
23 and facilitate dissemination of validated educational programs in
24 Oklahoma. The technical assistance provider shall have priority, if

1 its operations are deemed satisfactory by the State Board of
2 Education and if funds are available, for annual renewal of the
3 contract.

4 2. The duties of the technical assistance provider shall
5 include, but shall not be limited to:

6 a. providing initial and ongoing training of personnel
7 who will educate at-risk populations through
8 alternative education programs,

9 b. providing technical assistance to school districts to
10 enhance the probability of success of their
11 alternative education programs,

12 c. evaluating state-funded alternative education
13 programs,

14 d. reporting to the State Board of Education the
15 evaluation results of state-funded alternative
16 education programs, and

17 e. providing in-depth program analysis and evaluation of
18 state-funded alternative education programs.

19 3. The State Board of Education shall not provide funding to an
20 alternative education program that does not receive a recommendation
21 for continued funding in the evaluation provided for in this
22 subsection. Provided, any school district not receiving such a
23 recommendation for continued funding may request a hearing before
24

1 the Board with a review of the evaluation prior to the Board's final
2 determination.

3 H. All alternative education programs shall be subject to
4 statutes and rules applicable to alternative education, including
5 any exemptions from statutory or regulatory requirements authorized
6 by statutes or rule.

7 I. An alternative education program may be offered by an
8 individual school district or may be offered jointly by school
9 districts that have formed interlocal cooperative agreements
10 pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title. Any school district
11 submitting a plan for an alternative education program serving fewer
12 than ten students shall enter into a cooperative agreement with
13 another school district to jointly provide the program unless the
14 program has been granted a waiver from this requirement by the State
15 Board of Education.

16 J. Any materials or equipment purchased by a school district
17 with revenue received for students participating in an alternative
18 education program shall be used only in or directly for the
19 alternative education program offered by the district or any
20 subsequent alternative education program offered to students
21 enrolled in that district. Such materials and equipment shall be
22 made available exclusively to alternative education students during
23 the hours that the alternative education program is operating;
24

1 provided, the material or equipment may be used for other purposes
2 when the alternative education program is not operating.

3 K. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in
4 subsection M of this section and contingent upon the provision of
5 appropriated funds designated for such purpose, all school districts
6 in the state providing alternative education programs as required in
7 subsection B of this section shall expand the programs to include
8 middle-school-grade students. The program shall conform to the
9 requirements of subsection B of this section.

10 L. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in
11 subsection M of this section and contingent upon the provision of
12 appropriated funds designated for such purpose, each urban school
13 district identified by the State Department of Education as having a
14 high population of elementary grade students who are at-risk and in
15 need of alternative education shall provide elementary level
16 alternative education programs. The State Department of Education
17 shall establish requirements for the programs. For purposes of this
18 section, "urban school district" means a school district with an
19 average daily membership of thirty thousand (30,000) or more.

20 M. Implementation of subsections K and L of this section shall
21 be delayed until the current expenditure per pupil in average daily
22 attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted
23 dollars for the 1998-99 school year or any school year thereafter
24 for Oklahoma, as reported by the National Center for Education

1 Statistics annually in the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches
2 at least ninety percent (90%) of the regional average expenditure
3 for that same year, and funds are provided. For purposes of this
4 subsection, the regional average expenditure shall consist of the
5 current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public
6 elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for each of
7 the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New
8 Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of
9 each year, the State Board of Education shall report whether or not
10 the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached based on
11 information reported annually in the Digest of Education Statistics
12 by the National Center for Education Statistics. Subsections K and
13 L of this section shall be implemented on July 1 after the first
14 January 1 report verifies that the ninety-percent expenditure level
15 has been reached and funds have been provided for the specific
16 purposes of this section.

17 SECTION 27. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-211 of Title 70, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 The State Board of Education in cooperation with the Commission
21 for Educational Quality and Accountability, the Oklahoma State
22 Regents for Higher Education and institutions of higher education
23 shall conduct an educator supply-and-demand study every three (3)
24 years. The study shall identify areas of teacher shortage and make

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

5 SECTION 28. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

6 SECTION 29. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
7 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
8 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
9 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

10

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/27/2014
12 - DO PASS, As Amended.

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