



1 and in accordance with the rules ~~and regulations~~ of the State Board  
2 of Education, to perform the particular services for which ~~he or she~~  
3 the person is employed-;

4 2. ~~Superintendent: A superintendent of schools shall be~~  
5 "Superintendent" or "superintendent of schools" means the executive  
6 officer of the board of education and the administrative head of the  
7 school system of a district maintaining an accredited school,  
8 provided ~~he or she~~ the person holds an administrator's certificate  
9 recognized by the State Board of Education-;

10 3. ~~Principal: A principal shall be~~ "Principal" means any  
11 person other than a district superintendent of schools having  
12 supervisory or administrative authority over any school or school  
13 building having two or more teachers. A teaching principal shall be  
14 a principal who devotes at least one-half the time school is in  
15 session to classroom teaching. ~~Until July 1, 1993, teaching~~  
16 ~~principals shall not be required to hold administrative~~  
17 ~~certificates. Beginning July 1, 1993, teaching~~ Teaching principals  
18 shall be required to hold administrative certificates-;

19 4. ~~For~~ "Teachers" means, for purposes of complying with the  
20 State Aid Law and other statutes which apportion money on the basis  
21 of teaching units or the number of teachers employed or qualified,  
22 all persons holding proper certificates ~~or licenses~~ and connected in  
23 any capacity with the instruction of pupils ~~shall be designated as~~  
24 "teachers"-;

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

9        6. ~~Student Teacher: A student teacher is~~ "Student teacher"  
10 means any student who is enrolled in an institution of higher  
11 learning approved by the State Board of Education for teacher  
12 training and who is jointly assigned by such institution of higher  
13 learning and a school district's board of education to perform  
14 practice teaching under the direction of a regularly employed and  
15 certified teacher. A student teacher, while serving a nonsalaried  
16 internship under the supervision of a certified teacher, shall be  
17 accorded the same protection of the laws as that accorded the  
18 certified teacher-;

19        7. ~~A school nurse~~ "School nurse" means a person employed full  
20 time by a board of education ~~shall be~~ who is a registered nurse  
21 licensed by the Oklahoma State Board of Nurse Registration and  
22 Nursing Education, and is certified the same as a teacher by the  
23 State Department of Education. Provided, that any person who is  
24 employed as a full-time nurse in any school district in Oklahoma,

1 but who is not registered on the effective date of this act, may  
2 continue to serve in the same capacity~~;~~; however, such person shall,  
3 under rules ~~and regulations~~ adopted by the State Board of Education,  
4 attend classes in nursing and prepare to become registered.

5 A school nurse employed by a board of education shall be  
6 accorded the same protection of laws and all other benefits accorded  
7 a certified teacher~~;~~; and

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

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

15 Section 3-126. A. A school district may develop an educational  
16 improvement plan which includes exemption from the educational-  
17 related statutory requirements set forth in subsection C of this  
18 section and State Board of Education rules for the school district,  
19 a school site or any program, grade level, consortium of schools or  
20 school districts or other group within the school district. The  
21 board of education of the school district shall, through adoption of  
22 a resolution, approve the plan prior to application being made to  
23 the State Board of Education.

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

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

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

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

7 4. Demonstration of collaboration by teachers, administrators,  
8 higher education representatives, students, parents/families, and  
9 the community;

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

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

14 7. Report on the results of the plan to the State Board of  
15 Education and provision of appropriate technical assistance to other  
16 school districts and the State Department of Education as required;  
17 and

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

20 C. Each educational improvement plan shall include a list of  
21 the specific educational-related statutory requirements and State  
22 Board of Education rules the school district is requesting an  
23 exemption from and why each exemption is necessary to success of the  
24 plan. The school district shall not be granted an exemption from

1 federal educational-related requirements. A school district may  
2 request an exemption from any statutory requirement or State Board  
3 of Education rule not related to bilingual and special education  
4 programs, health and safety provisions, school finance, State Aid,  
5 pupil formula weights, teacher salary and teacher retirement, the  
6 Oklahoma School Testing Program, the Oklahoma Educational Indicators  
7 Program and the teacher preparation, examination, ~~licensure,~~  
8 certification, residency and professional development system. The  
9 State Board of Education may grant district-wide exemptions from  
10 certification requirements for Library Media Specialists to  
11 districts experiencing a shortage in this area. The State Board of  
12 Education may grant an exemption from certification requirements for  
13 superintendents to any district with an unweighted average daily  
14 membership over twenty-five thousand (25,000).

15 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 312, O.S.L.  
16 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013, Section 3-129.11), is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18 Section 3-129.11. A. There is hereby established the School  
19 District Empowerment Program which shall be administered by the  
20 State Board of Education. The purpose of the program is to empower  
21 locally elected school board members to govern school districts and  
22 make decisions based on the needs of their students and  
23 circumstances.

24

1       B. 1. Subject to the provisions of this section, a school  
2 district shall be allowed to submit a request to the State Board of  
3 Education for an exemption from all statutory requirements and State  
4 Board of Education rules from which charter schools are exempt, as  
5 provided for in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Any request for  
6 exemption shall include a plan which outlines the goals sought to be  
7 achieved at a minimum, include the educational and fiscal benefits  
8 and the anticipated impacts or outcomes the plan will have in the  
9 district.

10       2. Within ninety (90) days after receiving the request and  
11 plan, the State Board shall approve or disapprove the request. If  
12 the State Board does not approve the request, it shall provide to  
13 the school district a written explanation of the basis for its  
14 decision. The school district may resubmit an amended request at  
15 any time after the denial. The request shall be approved by the  
16 State Board before implementation by the school district. An  
17 approved request and plan shall be for no longer than three (3)  
18 years. Prior to the beginning of the third year, the school  
19 district may apply for renewal of the approved request and plan.  
20 The school district shall be required to submit an annual report and  
21 the State Board shall annually assess the academic achievement and  
22 fiscal status of the school district.

23       C. Nothing in this section shall prevent a school district  
24 board of education from choosing to follow any or all state laws,

1 rules or regulations from which a charter school is exempt. A  
2 school district which has been granted approval by the State Board  
3 for exemption as set forth in subsection B of this section shall  
4 have the option to adopt policies to implement any requirement for  
5 the school district that is consistent with any statutory  
6 requirement or mandate or State Board rule, but a participating  
7 school shall comply with the following requirements:

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

11 2. School districts shall comply with the requirements of the  
12 minimum salary schedule for teachers as set forth in Section 18-  
13 114.12 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

14 3. Employees of school districts shall continue to participate  
15 as members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma as set  
16 forth in Section 17-101 et seq. of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~  
17 this title;

18 4. School districts shall comply with the requirement to  
19 provide a health insurance plan for school district employees as set  
20 forth in Section 5-117.5 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this  
21 title and to establish or make available to school district  
22 employees a cafeteria plan as set forth in Section 26-104 of ~~Title~~  
23 ~~70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;



1        5. School districts shall require any person employed by the  
2 school district to file with the district board a current Oklahoma  
3 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
4 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
5 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Each  
6 district shall adopt a policy regarding criminal history record  
7 checks as set forth in Section 5-142 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~  
8 ~~Statutes~~ this title;

9        6. School districts shall comply with the requirement to  
10 evaluate teachers and to train personnel designated to conduct  
11 personnel evaluations as set forth in Sections 6-101.10 and 6-101.11  
12 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, the dismissal and  
13 due process procedures for administrators as set forth in Sections  
14 6-101.13 through 6-101.15 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this  
15 title and the due process procedures for teachers as set forth in  
16 Sections 6-101.21 through 6-101.26 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~  
17 ~~Statutes~~ this title;

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

23        8. School districts shall comply with the dismissal and due  
24 process procedures for education support employees as set forth in

1 Sections 6-101.40 through 6-101.47 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~  
2 ~~Statutes~~ this title;

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

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

13 11. School districts shall be required to offer and students  
14 enrolled in the school district shall be required to complete the  
15 curriculum requirements as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of ~~Title 70~~  
16 ~~of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

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

21 13. Members of the school district board of education shall be  
22 required to satisfy the instruction and continuing education  
23 requirements as set forth in Sections 5-110, 5-110.1 and 5-110.2 of  
24 ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

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

3       Section 6-101. A. Except as provided in subsection E of this  
4 section, no person shall be permitted to teach in any school  
5 district of the state without a written contract, except as provided  
6 herein for substitute teachers and except teachers of classes in  
7 adult education. Except as provided in subsection J of this  
8 section, the board of education of each school district, wherein  
9 school is expected to be conducted for the ensuing year, shall  
10 employ and contract in writing with qualified teachers for and in  
11 the name of the district. One copy of the contract shall be filed  
12 with the clerk of the board of education and one copy shall be  
13 retained by the teacher.

14       B. Except as otherwise provided by subsection J of this section  
15 and any other law, no board of education shall have authority to  
16 enter into any written contract with a teacher who does not hold a  
17 valid certificate issued or recognized by the State Board of  
18 Education authorizing said teacher to teach the grades or subject  
19 matter for which the teacher is employed. Any board of education  
20 paying or authorizing the payment of the salary of any teacher not  
21 holding a certificate, as required herein, shall be adjudged to be  
22 guilty of a fraudulent expenditure of public funds and members  
23 voting for such payment shall be held jointly responsible for the  
24 return of the amount of any public monies thus expended, upon suit

1 brought by the district attorney or by any interested citizen in the  
2 district where such funds have been expended.

3 C. It shall be the duty of the superintendent of schools under  
4 whose supervision teachers have been contracted to teach to certify  
5 to the treasurer of the contracting district the names of the  
6 teachers holding valid certificates with whom contracts have been  
7 made and the names of substitute teachers employed in accordance  
8 with law. The treasurer shall not register any warrant issued in  
9 payment of salary to any teacher whose name is not included in such  
10 list and shall be liable on the official bond for the treasurer for  
11 the amount of any warrant registered in violation of the provisions  
12 of this section.

13 D. Whenever any person shall enter into a contract with any  
14 school district in Oklahoma to teach in such school district the  
15 contract shall be binding on the teacher and on the board of  
16 education until the teacher legally has been discharged from the  
17 teaching position or released by the board of education from the  
18 contract. Except as provided in Section 5-106A of this title, until  
19 such teacher has been thus discharged or released, the teacher shall  
20 not have authority to enter into a contract with any other board of  
21 education in Oklahoma for the same time covered by the original  
22 contract. If upon written complaint by the board of education in a  
23 district any teacher is reported to have failed to obey the terms of  
24 the contract previously made and to have entered into a contract

1 with another board of education without having been released from  
2 the former contract except as provided in Section 5-106A of this  
3 title, the teacher, upon being found guilty of such charge at a  
4 hearing held before the State Board of Education, shall have such  
5 teacher's certificate suspended for the remainder of the term for  
6 which the contract was made.

7 E. A board of education shall have authority to enter into  
8 written contracts with teachers for the ensuing fiscal year prior to  
9 the beginning of such year. If, prior to the first Monday in June,  
10 a board of education has not entered into a written contract with a  
11 regularly employed teacher or notified the teacher in writing by  
12 registered or certified mail that a recommendation has been made not  
13 to reemploy the teacher for the ensuing fiscal year, and if, by  
14 fifteen (15) days after the first Monday in June, such teacher has  
15 not notified the board of education in writing by registered or  
16 certified mail that such teacher does not desire to be reemployed in  
17 such school district for the ensuing year, such teacher shall be  
18 considered as employed on a continuing contract basis and on the  
19 same salary schedule used for other teachers in the school district  
20 for the ensuing fiscal year, and such employment and continuing  
21 contract shall be binding on the teacher and on the school district.

22 F. Whenever a school district is engaged in contract  
23 negotiations with teachers employed by that school district after  
24 the school year has begun and the teachers are employed on a

1 continuing contract basis, the school district shall, beginning at  
2 the first of the school year, pay the teachers any state-mandated  
3 salary increases and salary schedule increases to which each teacher  
4 is otherwise entitled.

5 G. No school district or any member of the board of education  
6 of a district shall be liable for the payment of compensation to a  
7 teacher or administrator under the provisions of any contract for  
8 the ensuing year, if it becomes necessary to close the school  
9 because of insufficient attendance, disorganization, annexation,  
10 consolidation, or by dispensing with the school according to law,  
11 provided, such cause is known or action is taken prior to July 1 of  
12 such ensuing year.

13 H. No school district or any member of a board of education  
14 shall be liable for the payment of compensation to any teacher or  
15 administrator for the unexpired term of any contract if the school  
16 building to which the teacher or administrator has been assigned is  
17 destroyed by accident, storm, fire, or otherwise and it becomes  
18 necessary to close the school because of inability to secure a  
19 suitable building or buildings for continuation of school. Teachers  
20 and administrators shall be entitled to pay for any time lost when  
21 school is closed on account of epidemics or otherwise when an order  
22 for such closing has been issued by a health officer authorized by  
23 law to issue the order.

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

4 J. A board of education shall have authority to enter into  
5 written contracts for the ensuing fiscal year prior to the beginning  
6 of the year with persons who are not certified ~~or licensed~~ to teach  
7 by the State Board of Education as long as the person is actively in  
8 the process of securing certification ~~or licensure~~. The person  
9 shall not be allowed to teach in a classroom until the person has  
10 met or completed all of the requirements for ~~licensure or~~  
11 certification as provided for in Section 6-190 of this title. If  
12 the person has not obtained valid certification ~~or licensure~~ by the  
13 first day of the ensuing school year, the contract shall be  
14 terminated.

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

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

20 1. "Administrator" means a duly certified person who devotes a  
21 majority of time to service as a superintendent, elementary  
22 superintendent, principal, supervisor, vice principal or in any  
23 other administrative or supervisory capacity in the school district;  
24

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

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

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

7            a. for teachers employed by a school district prior to  
8 full implementation of the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader  
9 Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in  
10 Section 6-101.10 of this title, has completed three  
11 (3) or more consecutive complete school years as a  
12 teacher in one school district under a written  
13 continuing or temporary teaching contract, or

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

20            (1) has completed three (3) consecutive complete  
21 school years as a teacher in one school district  
22 under a written continuing or temporary teaching  
23 contract and has achieved a rating of "superior"  
24 as measured pursuant to the TLE as set forth in



1 Section 6-101.16 of this title for at least two  
2 (2) of the three (3) school years, with no rating  
3 below "effective",

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

12 (3) has completed four (4) or more consecutive  
13 complete school years in one school district  
14 under a written continuing or temporary teaching  
15 contract and has not met the requirements of  
16 subparagraph a or b of this paragraph, only if  
17 the principal of the school at which the teacher  
18 is employed submits a petition to the  
19 superintendent of the school district requesting  
20 that the teacher be granted career status, the  
21 superintendent agrees with the petition, and the  
22 school district board of education approves the  
23 petition. The principal shall specify in the  
24

1                   petition the underlying facts supporting the  
2                   granting of career status to the teacher;

3       5. "Teacher hearing" means the hearing before a school district  
4 board of education after a recommendation for dismissal or  
5 nonreemployment of a teacher has been made but before any final  
6 action is taken on the recommendation, held for the purpose of  
7 affording the teacher all rights guaranteed by the United States  
8 Constitution and the Constitution of Oklahoma under circumstances  
9 and for enabling the board to determine whether to approve or  
10 disapprove the recommendation;

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

- 12           a.   for teachers employed by a school district prior to  
13               full implementation of the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader  
14               Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in  
15               Section 6-101.10 of this title, has completed fewer  
16               than three (3) consecutive complete school years as a  
17               teacher in one school district under a written  
18               teaching contract, or
- 19           b.   for teachers employed for the first time by a school  
20               district under a written teaching contract after full  
21               implementation of the Oklahoma Teacher and Leader  
22               Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in  
23               Section 6-101.10 of this title, has not met the  
24

requirements for career teacher as provided in  
paragraph 4 of this section;

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

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

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

Section 6-101.40. A support employee who has been employed by a  
local board of education for more than one (1) year shall be subject  
to suspension, demotion, termination or nonreemployment only for  
cause, as designated by the policy of the local board of education,  
adopted as provided in Section 6-101.43 of this title. This section  
shall not be construed to prevent layoffs for lack of funds or work.  
For purposes of this act, "support employee" means a full-time  
employee of a school district as determined by the standard period  
of labor which is customarily understood to constitute full-time  
employment for the type of services performed by the employee who is  
employed a minimum of one hundred seventy-two (172) days and who  
provides those services, not performed by professional educators or

1 ~~licensed~~ certified teachers, which are necessary for the efficient  
2 and satisfactory functioning of a school district and shall not  
3 include adult education instructors or adult coordinators employed  
4 by technology center school districts.

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

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

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

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

18 3. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by  
19 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)  
20 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject  
21 matter of the professional education component of an alternative  
22 placement program. The number of clock or semester hours required  
23 for the professional education component of an alternative placement  
24

1 program needed to qualify for standard certification shall be as  
2 follows:

- 3 a. baccalaureate degree, eighteen (18) semester hours or  
4 two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or
- 5 b. postbaccalaureate degree, twelve (12) semester hours  
6 or one hundred eighty (180) clock hours.

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

10 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all  
11 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of  
12 subsection E of this section;

13 4. Has passed the general education and subject area portions  
14 of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this  
15 title in the area of specialization for which certification is  
16 sought; and

17 5. Either presents a document from an accredited public school  
18 district in this state offering employment in the area of  
19 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that  
20 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by  
21 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek  
22 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in  
23 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection  
24 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the

1 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder  
2 of the certificate shall be considered a resident teacher for the  
3 purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

4 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be  
5 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon  
6 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district  
7 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of  
8 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution  
9 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative  
10 placement program.

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

12 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education  
13 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,  
14 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the  
15 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher  
16 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed  
17 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of  
18 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

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

22 3. Participate in the Residency Program, established in Section  
23 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as  
24

1 other resident teachers, except those persons who hold a  
2 certificate; and

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

8 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the  
9 requirements for ~~licensure~~ and certification and, upon demonstration  
10 by an individual of specific competency in the subject area of  
11 specialization, may grant a ~~license~~ or certificate to the  
12 individual. The State Board may establish other requirements  
13 necessary to grant exceptions.

14 E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience  
15 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants  
16 for standard certification.

17 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
18 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished  
19 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be  
20 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be  
21 limited to ninety (90) clock hours of classroom teaching per  
22 semester.

23 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the  
24 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of

1 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation  
2 in the alternative placement programs offered by the Institution.

3 H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not  
4 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any  
5 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in  
6 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs  
7 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,  
8 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow  
9 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this  
10 section to be:

11 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further  
12 qualification; and

13 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for  
14 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section  
15 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year  
16 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate.  
17 Any person seeking standard certification through an alternative  
18 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses  
19 during regular semesters if offered.

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

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



1       Section 6-122.6. A. The State Board of Education shall issue a  
2 one-year, nonrenewable secondary or middle level ~~license~~ certificate  
3 to teach to any person who has attained certification by an  
4 alternative teacher certification organization as set forth in  
5 subsection C of this section and has on file with the Board a  
6 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State  
7 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history  
8 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
9 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the  
10 Board may issue a temporary ~~license~~ certificate which shall be  
11 effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal  
12 history record. The person applying for a ~~license~~ certificate shall  
13 be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

14       B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6-195 of ~~Title 70~~  
15 ~~of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, teachers issued a ~~license~~  
16 certificate pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the  
17 requirements of the residency program, but shall participate in the  
18 mentoring program provided by the alternative teacher certification  
19 organization as set forth in subsection C of this section. Upon  
20 successful completion of such mentoring program, the teacher shall  
21 be issued a certificate to teach by the State Board of Education  
22 after completion of the application and payment of the certification  
23 fee as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

1 C. For purposes of this section, the State Board of Education  
2 shall identify an alternative teacher certification organization  
3 that was founded with grant funding from the United States  
4 Department of Education and that developed the Passport to Teaching  
5 program, which is a certification program designed for professionals  
6 who want to change careers and become teachers. The program shall  
7 require candidates to hold a bachelor's degree, pass a professional  
8 teaching knowledge exam, pass a subject area exam, and pass a  
9 background check. The organization shall provide candidates with  
10 access to workshops, an experienced teacher-advisor, and optional  
11 access to comprehensive subject matter refresher courses. The  
12 organization shall also provide an intensive mentoring and induction  
13 program.

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

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

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

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

21 2. "Commission" means ~~the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~  
22 ~~Preparation until July 1, 2014, and beginning July 1, 2014, means~~  
23 the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability;

1        3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
2 Education;

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

6        5. "Professional development program" means the program  
7 mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous  
8 improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of  
9 this state;

10        6. 5. "Teacher education professional development committee"  
11 means the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the  
12 continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in  
13 teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

14        7. 6. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

15        8. 7. "Residency committee" means a committee in a school  
16 district for the purpose of ~~reviewing the teaching performance of a~~  
17 ~~resident teacher and making recommendations to the Board and the~~  
18 ~~preparing institution of higher education regarding certification of~~  
19 ~~the resident teacher~~ providing professional support, mentorship and  
20 coaching to the resident teacher. A residency committee ~~shall~~ may  
21 consist of ~~a~~ one or more mentor ~~teacher~~ teachers, the principal or  
22 an assistant principal of the employing school ~~or an administrator,~~  
23 one or more administrators designated by the school district board  
24 ~~and of education,~~ a teacher educator in a college or school of

1 education of an institution of higher education<sup>7</sup> or an educator in a  
2 department or school outside the institution's teacher education  
3 unit. ~~Provided that, if available~~ If possible, qualified mentor  
4 teachers shall have expertise in the teaching field of the resident  
5 teacher and, if possible, the higher education members of the  
6 residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the  
7 teaching field of the resident teacher. However, in all cases, at  
8 least one member of the residency committee shall have expertise and  
9 experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher;

10 ~~9.~~ 8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section  
11 1-116 of this title;

12 ~~10.~~ 9. "Resident teacher" means any ~~licensed~~ certified teacher  
13 who is employed in an accredited school to serve as a teacher and  
14 the school district has elected to place under the guidance and  
15 assistance of a mentor teacher and residency committee. The  
16 resident teacher shall have completed the program of the college or  
17 school of education of the accredited institution of higher  
18 education from which the person has been graduated, and shall have  
19 successfully completed the competency examination in areas of  
20 approval in which the resident teacher seeks certification;

21 ~~11.~~ 10. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been  
22 issued a certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma  
23 Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

1       ~~12.~~ 11. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher holding a standard  
2 certificate who is employed in a school district to serve as a  
3 teacher and who has been appointed to provide guidance, support,  
4 coaching and assistance to a resident teacher employed by the school  
5 district. A mentor teacher shall be a classroom teacher and have a  
6 minimum of two (2) years of classroom teaching experience as a  
7 certified teacher.

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

19       ~~13.~~ 12. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is  
20 employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher  
21 education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the  
22 preparation of education personnel; and

23       ~~14.~~ 13. "Competency examination" means the assessment required  
24 in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for ~~licensure and~~

1 certification as a teacher and shall consist of tests over general  
2 education, professional education and subject areas as defined by  
3 the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation until July 1, 2014,~~  
4 ~~and beginning July 1, 2014, as defined by the Commission for~~  
5 Educational Quality and Accountability.

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

9 Section 6-184. A. Beginning July 1, 1997 through July 1, 2014,  
10 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall have authority  
11 for approval and accreditation of teacher education programs and for  
12 assessment of candidates for ~~licensure and~~ certification according  
13 to the provisions of the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. As part  
14 of this duty the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

- 15 1. Include the State Board of Education in the process;
- 16 2. Review and assess approved, accredited and new programs of  
17 teacher education; and
- 18 3. Encourage studies and research designed to improve teacher  
19 education.

20 B. Until July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule pertaining to  
21 approval or accreditation of teacher education programs or  
22 assessment of candidates for ~~licensure and~~ certification, the  
23 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall solicit comments  
24 from the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for

1 Higher Education and the State Board of Career and Technology  
2 Education on the proposed rule. Within forty-five (45) days of the  
3 receipt of the proposed rule from the Oklahoma Commission for  
4 Teacher Preparation, the State Board of Education, the State Regents  
5 and the State Board of Career and Technology Education shall  
6 separately review the proposed rule and return their recommendations  
7 to the Commission on the proposed adoption. Each recommendation  
8 shall include the rationale for the recommendation. The Oklahoma  
9 Commission for Teacher Preparation shall accord the recommendations  
10 due deliberation in its subsequent consideration of the adoption of  
11 each proposed rule. If the action of the Commission on a proposed  
12 rule is not consistent with the recommendation made by any of the  
13 reviewing entities, within ten (10) days of the Oklahoma Commission  
14 for Teacher Preparation's formal action on the rule, the Commission  
15 shall submit a report providing justification for its actions to the  
16 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability.

17 C. Until July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education, the  
18 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of  
19 Career and Technology Education shall also have authority to  
20 recommend to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation rules  
21 for teacher education program approval and accreditation and rules  
22 for teacher assessment. Any such rule recommended shall be  
23 considered by the Commission within sixty (60) days of receipt of  
24 the rule by the same process provided in subsection A of this

1 section for rules proposed by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
2 Preparation.

3 D. Until July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule pertaining to  
4 teacher ~~licensure~~ and certification, residency or professional  
5 development, the State Board of Education shall solicit comments  
6 from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, the Oklahoma  
7 State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of Career and  
8 Technology Education on the proposed rule. Within forty-five (45)  
9 days of the receipt of a proposed rule from the State Board of  
10 Education, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, the  
11 State Regents and the State Board of Career and Technology Education  
12 shall separately review the proposed rule and return their  
13 recommendations to the Board on the proposed adoption. Each  
14 recommendation shall include the rationale for the recommendation.  
15 The State Board of Education shall accord the recommendations due  
16 deliberation in its subsequent consideration of the adoption of each  
17 rule. If the action of the State Board of Education on a proposed  
18 rule is not consistent with the recommendation made by any of the  
19 reviewing entities, within ten (10) days of the State Board of  
20 Education's formal action on the rule, the State Board of Education  
21 shall submit a report providing justification for its action to the  
22 Education Oversight Board.

23 E. Until July 1, 2014, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
24 Preparation, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the



1 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall have authority  
2 to recommend to the State Board of Education rules for adoption in  
3 the areas of teacher ~~license~~ and certification, residency and  
4 professional development. Any such rule recommended shall be  
5 considered by the State Board of Education within sixty (60) days of  
6 the receipt of the rule by the same process provided in subsection C  
7 of this section for rules proposed by the State Board of Education.

8 F. Beginning July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education, the  
9 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of  
10 Career and Technology Education shall have the authority to submit  
11 proposed rules regarding teacher education program approval,  
12 accreditation, and for teacher assessment to the Commission for  
13 Educational Quality and Accountability. All proposed rules shall be  
14 considered by the Commission within sixty (60) days of receipt of  
15 the proposed rule. The proposed rules shall be considered by the  
16 Commission in the same process provided in subsection B of this  
17 section for rules proposed by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
18 Preparation.

19 G. Beginning July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule pertaining  
20 to teacher leadership and effectiveness or professional development,  
21 the State Board of Education shall solicit comments from the  
22 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, the Oklahoma  
23 State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of Career and  
24 Technology Education on the proposed rule. Within forty-five (45)

1 days of the receipt of a proposed rule from the State Board of  
2 Education, the Commission for Educational Quality and  
3 Accountability, the State Regents and the State Board of Career and  
4 Technology Education shall separately review the proposed rule and  
5 return their recommendations to the Board on the proposed rule.  
6 Each recommendation shall include the rationale for the  
7 recommendation. The State Board of Education shall accord the  
8 recommendations due deliberation in its subsequent consideration of  
9 the adoption of each rule.

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

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

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

- 21 a. excellence in the arts and sciences,
- 22 b. an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter to be
- 23 taught,
- 24

- c. the ability to identify and cultivate talent and potential in students,
- d. an understanding of child and human development,
- e. teaching skills developed through a variety of learning experiences,
- f. the ability to interact effectively with all students,
- g. skills necessary for working with parents, guardians and custodians of students in the education process,
- h. skills necessary to involve the community in education,
- i. skills to foster teamwork within and among schools,
- j. for administrators, skills necessary to be an effective leader of a school or school district, and
- k. skills in effective classroom management and student discipline;

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

- a. require teacher candidates to study arts and sciences at the undergraduate level,
- b. require secondary and elementary/secondary teacher candidates to have undergraduate majors, or their equivalents, in a subject area, and require teacher candidates in early childhood, elementary, and special

- 1 education to have subject area concentrations which  
2 allow qualification as a generalist,
- 3 c. require teacher candidates to study the individuality  
4 of students, the capacity of students to learn and the  
5 process of learning,
  - 6 d. integrate curriculum from other disciplines with the  
7 education curriculum,
  - 8 e. require teacher candidates to have training  
9 experiences and personal contact with parents,  
10 guardians or custodians of school-age children,
  - 11 f. require teacher candidates to have community  
12 involvement experience,
  - 13 g. structure courses so as to require teamwork  
14 activities, and
  - 15 h. require teacher candidates to study, in existing  
16 coursework, substance abuse symptoms identification  
17 and prevention, mental illness symptoms identification  
18 and mental health issues, classroom management skills,  
19 and classroom safety and discipline techniques;

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

1        B. It is the intent of the Legislature that institutions of  
2 higher education which offer teacher education programs hold such  
3 programs accountable for meeting the ~~licensure and~~ certification  
4 competencies approved by the State Board of Education. It is the  
5 intent of the Legislature that the teacher education programs  
6 incorporate a curriculum to achieve the competency-based system and  
7 include integration of the teacher preparation curricula with the  
8 arts and sciences departments curricula. Each institution of higher  
9 education which seeks accreditation or approval for its teacher  
10 education program shall develop an institution plan which follows  
11 the State Board of Education competencies for ~~licensure and~~  
12 certification. In developing such institution plans, the higher  
13 education institution shall establish a process which seeks  
14 information and input from teacher preparation faculty, faculty from  
15 arts and sciences and other programs and disciplines which are  
16 appropriate, students within the teacher education program,  
17 teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or custodians of  
18 students and business and community leaders. Until July 1, 2014,  
19 each institution shall report annually to the Oklahoma Commission  
20 for Teacher Preparation and beginning July 1, 2013, to the  
21 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability the procedures  
22 used to inform the public regarding the institution's teacher  
23 education program and the manner through which public input is  
24 solicited and received. The institution's plan shall be accessible

1 to any interested party under the Oklahoma Open Records Act. No  
2 institution of higher education's teacher education program shall be  
3 approved by the Commission unless the institution plan has been  
4 approved by that institution's governing board. The Oklahoma State  
5 Regents for Higher Education may facilitate the development of  
6 institution plans to assist institutions of higher education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24

1       B. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall work  
2 with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various  
3 institutions of higher education in developing guidelines for a paid  
4 teacher internship program which may be offered at each institution  
5 for prospective teachers. The purpose of each program shall be to  
6 provide mentorship and support for prospective teachers. Students  
7 enrolled in a teacher education program shall be eligible to  
8 participate in the program. Only students who have completed the  
9 minimum nonsalaried teacher internship requirement as established by  
10 the institution shall be eligible to participate in the paid teacher  
11 internship program.

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

1 by the Commission along with professional development activities as  
2 a normal part of the accreditation process.

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

6 1. Professional development programs;

7 2. Higher education courses;

8 3. Exchange programs with public school classroom teachers,  
9 administrators, and other school personnel; and

10 4. Programs whereby all full-time teacher education faculty  
11 members directly involved in the teacher education process,  
12 including all administrators of the teacher education program, are  
13 required to serve in a state accredited public school for at least  
14 ten (10) clock hours per school year in responsibilities related to  
15 their respective teacher education teaching fields.

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

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

24



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

15       SECTION 13.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, as  
16 last amended by Section 3, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp.  
17 2013, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

18       Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency  
19 examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
20 Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a competency examination  
21 shall be adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
22 Accountability for the general education, professional education and  
23 various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring  
24 academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or

1 teacher in the subject area the person is seeking ~~licensure or~~  
2 certification to teach which shall also include ~~licensure or~~  
3 certification as an administrator, as prescribed by the State Board  
4 of Education.

5 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,  
6 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the  
7 confidentiality of examinations.

8 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for ~~licensing~~  
9 certification until successfully completing the competency  
10 examination except those candidates who make application to the  
11 State Board and meet the criteria for the alternative placement  
12 program pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification  
13 shall be limited to areas of approval in which the ~~licensed or~~  
14 certified teacher has successfully completed the examination.  
15 Subject to the provisions of subsection C of this section, testing  
16 for certification for subjects in which a teacher candidate or  
17 teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an endorsement to  
18 teach shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

19 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,  
20 professional education or subject area portions of the examination  
21 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

22 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a  
23 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the  
24

1 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully  
2 completed the subject area portion of the examination.

3 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,  
4 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education  
5 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program  
6 approved by the Commission.

7 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may  
8 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the  
9 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the  
10 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher  
11 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified  
12 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in  
13 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area  
14 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who  
15 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited  
16 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or  
17 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law  
18 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the  
19 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through  
20 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes  
21 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers  
22 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the  
23 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the  
24 appropriate subject area portion of the examination.

1 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at  
2 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the  
3 Commission.

4 E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall  
5 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an  
6 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,  
7 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district  
8 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a  
9 provisional or standard certificate ~~or who is licensed in the~~  
10 ~~teaching profession~~. In the event a district is unable to hire an  
11 individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document  
12 efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard  
13 certificate ~~or with a license~~ in another curricular area with  
14 academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these  
15 alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to  
16 employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the  
17 State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

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

21 Section 6-189. A. The ~~licensure and~~ certification system  
22 required by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act as part of the new  
23 teacher preparation system shall be competency-based. The  
24 competencies for ~~licensure and~~ certification shall be integrated

1 with competencies specified in Section 6-185 of this title. By July  
2 1, 1996, the State Board of Education shall adopt general  
3 competencies for ~~licensure and~~ certification, and by January 1,  
4 1997, the Board shall have adopted full competencies and implemented  
5 the ~~licensure and certification systems~~ system as required in this  
6 act. No higher education courses or credit hours may be specified  
7 by the State Board of Education in rules for ~~licensure or~~  
8 certification. Nothing in the ~~licensure and~~ certification rules  
9 adopted by the Board shall prohibit the Oklahoma State Regents for  
10 Higher Education from adopting policies and procedures it deems  
11 appropriate for coursework, grade point average, or credit hours for  
12 teacher preparation at institutions in The Oklahoma State System of  
13 Higher Education.

14 B. The certification requirements for a school principal not  
15 alternatively certified under subsection D of this section shall  
16 include not less than:

- 17 1. Completion of a standard master's degree;
- 18 2. Completion of a program in education administration approved  
19 by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation with an emphasis  
20 on curriculum, instruction and building-level leadership skills;
- 21 3. Any other professional education and requirements as may be  
22 fixed by the State Board of Education;
- 23 4. A passing score on the subject area competency examination  
24 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

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

5        C. The certification requirements for a superintendent of  
6 schools not alternatively certified under subsection D of this  
7 section shall include not less than:

8        1. Certification as a school principal or completion of the  
9 certification requirements for a school principal as set forth in  
10 subsection B of this section;

11       2. Completion of a program in education administration approved  
12 by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation with an emphasis  
13 on district-level leadership skills, and which shall include the  
14 following competencies:

- 15           a. instructional leadership,
- 16           b. organizational leadership, including education  
17           finance, education law, and risk management,
- 18           c. collaborative and community leadership, and
- 19           d. ethical leadership, or

20       The requirement in this paragraph shall not apply to any person  
21 who has completed an Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation  
22 approved Master's Degree in Education Administration or has  
23 completed a program in education administration that included  
24 competencies that are substantially equal to those listed in this

1 paragraph, and if the degree or program was completed between the  
2 effective date of this act and July 1, 2005;

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

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

7 5. A minimum of two (2) years of administrative experience in  
8 public or private schools accredited by the State Board of Education  
9 or by the proper accrediting authority of another state of the  
10 United States.

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

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

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

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

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

12        E. The certification requirements for a superintendent of a  
13 technology center school district shall include not less than a  
14 standard master's degree, any other professional education  
15 requirements as may be fixed by the State Board of Education, and a  
16 minimum of four (4) years teaching, supervisory or administrative  
17 experience, which may include teaching of full-time adult students,  
18 in a technology center school district. A person meeting the  
19 requirements set forth in subsection C of this section shall be  
20 eligible for a certificate for superintendent of a technology center  
21 school district.

22        F. Certificates may be revoked by the State Board of Education  
23 for willful violation of any rule of the Board or of any federal or  
24



1 state law or other proper cause but only after sufficient hearing  
2 has been given before the Board.

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

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

8 Section 6-189.1 A. Beginning July 1, 2000, no school district  
9 shall employ any teacher to teach mathematics in grades seven or  
10 eight, unless the teacher is ~~licensed or~~ certified to teach middle  
11 or secondary level mathematics or has received middle level  
12 endorsement pursuant to subsection B of this section. ~~A school~~  
13 ~~district may employ a teacher without such a license, certificate,~~  
14 ~~or endorsement until September 1, 2003, if the teacher became~~  
15 ~~licensed or certified to teach prior to September 1, 1999.~~

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

23 1. Middle level mathematics certification - A teacher may  
24 obtain middle level certification by successfully completing the

1 appropriate Oklahoma Subject Area Test for middle level mathematics  
2 administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.  
3 The teacher shall not be required to take the Oklahoma Professional  
4 Teacher Examination for secondary students administered by the  
5 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. A teacher granted  
6 middle level certification pursuant to this paragraph shall be  
7 entitled to teach mathematics in grades seven and eight for high  
8 school graduation credit; and

9       2. Middle level endorsement - A teacher may obtain a middle  
10 level endorsement by successfully completing a professional  
11 development institute in middle level mathematics developed and  
12 administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.  
13 Any professional development institute developed pursuant to this  
14 paragraph shall meet the criteria as established in subsection H of  
15 this section. A teacher granted middle level endorsement pursuant  
16 to this paragraph shall not be entitled to teach mathematics for  
17 high school graduation credit.

18       C. Any teacher serving in a school as a mathematics teacher for  
19 grade six may obtain middle level endorsement by successfully  
20 completing a professional development institute in middle level  
21 mathematics developed pursuant to this section. Such teacher shall  
22 be eligible to participate in a professional development institute  
23 in middle level mathematics developed and administered by the  
24 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation one time free of charge.

1 D. Any teacher seeking middle level certification or middle  
2 level endorsement pursuant to subsection B of this section shall be  
3 eligible to take the Oklahoma Subject Area Test in middle level  
4 mathematics one time free of charge after July 1, 2000, or  
5 participate in a professional development institute in middle level  
6 mathematics developed and administered by the Oklahoma Commission  
7 for Teacher Preparation one time free of charge after July 1, 2000.

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

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

17 G. Any teacher who became ~~licensed or~~ certified to teach prior  
18 to September 1, 1999, did not have middle or secondary level  
19 certification in mathematics and successfully completed the  
20 appropriate Oklahoma Subject Area Test for middle level mathematics  
21 between July 1, 1999, and July 1, 2000, shall be granted a middle  
22 level certificate pursuant to subsection B of this section.  
23  
24

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

- 4 a. consist of a minimum of thirty (30) clock hours,
- 5 b. be competency based,
- 6 c. emphasize effective learning practices,
- 7 d. require collaboration among participants, and
- 8 e. require each participant to prepare a work product  
9 which can be utilized in the classroom by the  
10 participant.

11 2. Any professional development institute in middle level  
12 mathematics developed pursuant to this section and administered by  
13 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall be chosen  
14 through a competitive bid process, be reviewed by a professional  
15 development committee and other constituencies, and be subject to  
16 peer review. Invitations to bid for a professional development  
17 institute shall be open to any public or private entity.

18 I. Beginning July 1, 2013, any teacher with certification or  
19 endorsement to teach at the secondary level may teach the subject  
20 area in which the teacher has received certification or endorsement  
21 in grades five and six.

22 SECTION 16. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-189.2, is  
23 amended to read as follows:  
24

1       Section 6-189.2. A. Any person seeking ~~license or~~  
2 certification as a school psychologist or school psychometrist shall  
3 be exempt from the requirement to successfully complete the general  
4 education and professional education portions of the competency  
5 examination required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-190 of ~~Title~~  
6 ~~70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

7       B. Any person certified as a school psychologist or school  
8 psychometrist pursuant to a substitution or exemption as provided in  
9 this section shall be required to complete all portions of the  
10 competency examination as required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-  
11 190 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title if such person  
12 seeks to add certification in another subject in the future.

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

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

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

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

1        1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program  
2 required by the ~~State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1997, and~~  
3 ~~the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation beginning July 1,~~  
4 ~~1997;~~

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

7        3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the  
8 Board;

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

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

13       6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a  
14 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State  
15 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history  
16 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
17 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the  
18 Board may issue a temporary ~~license~~ certificate which shall be  
19 effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal  
20 history record. The person applying for a ~~license~~ certificate shall  
21 be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

22       C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person  
23 who:  
24

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

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

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

D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial Oklahoma certification ~~who has not applied for and received an Oklahoma teacher license~~ shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

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

4 ~~F.~~ Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to  
5 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the  
6 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional  
7 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher  
8 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

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

11 Section 6-192. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the  
12 Legislature to establish a professional development procedure  
13 whereby all teachers in the state continue their education beyond  
14 initial ~~licensing and~~ certification by the state to ensure that the  
15 children of the state are taught by professional educators, fully  
16 prepared in their areas of expertise. Furthermore, such  
17 professional development procedure shall provide alternative means  
18 of education, including one or more of the following: In-service  
19 programs, higher education courses, or other alternative means of  
20 education designed to help teachers enrich their professional  
21 abilities.

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



1       Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this  
2 state shall establish professional development programs for the  
3 certified ~~and licensed~~ teachers and administrators of the district.  
4 Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations  
5 of a professional development committee appointed by the board of  
6 education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30,  
7 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may  
8 elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for  
9 certified ~~and licensed~~ teachers and administrators of the district.  
10 If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional  
11 development program, the district may expend any monies allocated  
12 for professional development for any purpose related to the support  
13 and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of  
14 education of the school district.

15       B. Each professional development committee shall include  
16 classroom teachers, administrators and parents, guardians or  
17 custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with  
18 a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the  
19 professional development committee shall be composed of classroom  
20 teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated  
21 administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted  
22 by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall  
23 be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the  
24

1 district. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee  
2 shall include at least one school counselor in its membership.

3 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional  
4 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach  
5 to analyze student data and determine district and school  
6 professional development needs. The professional development  
7 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of  
8 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum  
9 areas for the following goals:

10 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the  
11 district and each school site;

12 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

13 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-  
14 mandated tests and the ACT;

15 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

16 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

17 Each program may also include components on classroom management  
18 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or  
19 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic  
20 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116  
21 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis.  
22 The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist  
23 school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic  
24 education components into professional development programs. At

1 least once a year a program shall be offered which includes a  
2 component of teacher training on recognition and reporting of child  
3 abuse and neglect which all teachers shall be required to complete.  
4 Additionally at least one time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010  
5 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all  
6 resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through  
7 grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during  
8 the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years  
9 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals  
10 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be  
11 required to complete the autism training at least one time every  
12 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum  
13 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources  
14 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to  
15 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school  
16 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or  
17 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically  
18 designed for school counselors.

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

23 D. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each  
24 ~~licensed or~~ certified teacher in this state shall be required by the

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

22 E. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State  
23 Department of Education on the district level professional  
24 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results

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

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

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

15 Section 6-195. A. The State Department of Education shall  
16 administer a residency program for teachers which shall be approved  
17 by the State Board of Education. ~~Such~~ For the 2014-2015 school  
18 year, each school district shall have the option of participating in  
19 the residency program. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year,  
20 each school district shall participate in the residency program.  
21 The program shall be developed in consultation with the teacher  
22 education institutions, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
23 Preparation and the district boards of education. ~~Such~~ The program  
24 shall include, but not be limited to:

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

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

6        3. Guidelines for the appointment and functions of a residency  
7 committee; and

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

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

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

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

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

22       C. Any person who has been issued a license certificate to  
23 teach by the Board may be employed on a temporary or continuing  
24 contract basis as a resident teacher by an accredited school upon

1 appointment by the district board of education or by a private or  
2 public provider of early childhood education programs as authorized  
3 in Section 11-103.7 of this title.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E. Upon employment of a ~~licensed~~ certified teacher in a resident teacher position by a private or public provider of early



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

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

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

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

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

22 Section 6-195.2. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the  
23 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall develop and  
24 administer mathematics professional development programs which will

1 be provided for any teacher who became ~~licensed or~~ certified to  
2 teach in elementary education or early childhood education prior to  
3 July 1, 2001, and is serving as a teacher in a public school in this  
4 state in kindergarten through third grade. The purpose of the  
5 professional development program shall be to improve the knowledge  
6 and skills of the teachers and to ensure that the elementary grade  
7 students of the state are taught by professional educators fully  
8 prepared in the area of mathematics.

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

11 1. Be scientifically research-based professional development;  
12 and

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

15 C. The professional development program offered to teachers  
16 pursuant to the provisions of this section shall address both  
17 content skill and methodology, and may contain a technology  
18 component.

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

21 Section 6-197. A. All students graduating from an accredited  
22 institution of higher education approved or accredited by the  
23 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the preparation of  
24 educational personnel on or after September 1, 1999, and seeking to

1 enter the public education system as a teacher shall be subject to  
2 the assessment, and certification ~~and licensing~~ procedures  
3 established in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. Except as  
4 provided for in subsection B of this section, all students  
5 graduating from an accredited institution of higher education prior  
6 to September 1, 1999, and seeking to enter the public education  
7 system as a teacher shall be subject to the assessment, ~~licensing~~  
8 and certification requirements in effect before July 1, 1997.

9 B. Any person who graduates from an accredited institution of  
10 higher education prior to September 1, 1999, and seeks certification  
11 or endorsement subsequent to September 1, 1999, to teach a subject  
12 area which the teacher was not certified to teach prior to September  
13 1, 1999, following completion of the required higher education shall  
14 be required to successfully complete the competency examination for  
15 such subject area prior to receiving such certification or  
16 endorsement.

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

20 Section 6-210. A. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
21 Preparation is authorized to establish the Inner City Schools Rescue  
22 program. The purpose of the program shall be to recruit and train  
23 ~~licensed or~~ certified teachers to work in inner city schools and to  
24 provide technical assistance and support to those teachers who

1 participate in the program and become employed in an inner city  
2 school.

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

8 C. To fulfill the objectives of the Inner City Schools Rescue  
9 program the Commission shall:

10 1. Inform teachers of the program;

11 2. Collect and review applications for the program from  
12 interested teachers; and

13 3. Establish an applicant review committee to identify  
14 participants for the program.

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

19 E. The Commission shall promulgate rules to implement the  
20 provisions of this section.

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

23 Section 509.2. A. The board of education shall recognize an  
24 employee organization designated by an election of the employees in

1 an appropriate bargaining unit as the exclusive representative of  
2 all the employees in such unit. The members of an employee  
3 organization shall be employees as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3  
4 of this subsection and Section 1-116 of this title. The recognition  
5 of such employee organization shall be made by the board no later  
6 than fourteen (14) days after the election. Any person who desires  
7 not to be represented by any organization may so state in writing to  
8 his or her board of education. Appropriate bargaining units are  
9 defined as follows; however, such definition shall not be construed,  
10 of itself, as requiring that bargaining units engage in bargaining  
11 or act to disengage from bargaining:

12 1. Employees who are employed and certified as principals and  
13 assistant principals and who have responsibilities for the  
14 supervision of classroom teachers shall constitute an appropriate  
15 unit;

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

22 3. All employees who are not required by their job description  
23 to be a principal, ~~licensed or~~ certified teacher, superintendent or  
24 other certified or noncertified administrator shall constitute a

1 separate bargaining unit. Provided that, employees with access to  
2 confidential, labor relations information of the school district, or  
3 managerial employees whose responsibilities include making  
4 employment recommendations to the superintendent and for which their  
5 position does not require a certificate, shall be excluded from this  
6 or other bargaining units. Also excluded is any employee position  
7 agreed to be excluded from the bargaining unit by the employee  
8 organization and the school district.

9        Provided, if employees categorized according to paragraphs 2 and  
10 3 of this subsection were organized for bargaining as a single unit  
11 as of April 14, 1986, or are at any time employed in a district  
12 having fewer than seventy-five employees in the two categories taken  
13 together, the employees may, for such time as a majority of the  
14 employees in each category indicate by secret ballot vote they share  
15 a single community of interest, constitute a single appropriate  
16 unit. Further provided, any final judgment of the Supreme Court  
17 denying such community of interest in any school district shall have  
18 the effect of rendering inappropriate all units, in whatever school  
19 districts they exist, which include employees of both categories.

20        B. 1. Within seven (7) business days of receiving a sealed  
21 packet containing an employee petition filed by or on behalf of  
22 thirty-five percent (35%) or more of the employees in a unit, such  
23 petition calling for an election to determine which, if any,  
24 employee organization represents the employees in a bargaining unit,

1 the board shall arrange for verification that there are a sufficient  
2 number of correct names to constitute at least thirty-five percent  
3 (35%) of the employees in the unit. Such arrangements shall include  
4 the transmitting of the sealed packet and a list of employees  
5 eligible to be included in the bargaining unit to the individual  
6 designated pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this  
7 subsection.

8 2. The petition calling for the secret ballot election shall  
9 contain only the names of employees of the bargaining unit who have  
10 signed and dated the petition. Within thirty (30) days of receipt  
11 of the sealed packet by the district court judge in and for the  
12 county in which the school district has its main office, the sealed  
13 packet shall be opened and the petition shall be verified by an  
14 individual designated by the district judge of such court for the  
15 county in which the school district has its main office. Upon  
16 verification of the number of signatures on the petition, the  
17 district court judge shall notify in writing the district board of  
18 education and any employee organization that has requested notice of  
19 the verification. Under no circumstances shall the individual so  
20 designated reveal the names of employees who signed or did not sign  
21 the petition. If an employee has signed more than one petition, the  
22 name of the employee shall be removed from each petition.

23 3. The period of time for signing of a recognition petition  
24 shall commence upon receipt of written notification by the school

1 board from an organization indicating that it intends to circulate a  
2 petition and shall cease thirty (30) days thereafter. Provided, if  
3 an organization recognized as representative of a unit for  
4 bargaining is being challenged for discontinuation of representation  
5 as provided in paragraph 7 of subsection C of this section or is  
6 being challenged by another organization seeking recognition, the  
7 period for signing shall commence on the first day of February and  
8 end on the last day of that same February.

9 C. 1. Not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty  
10 (60) days after receipt of notification that the petition has been  
11 verified as sufficient, a secret ballot election shall be held to  
12 determine which, if any, employee organization shall represent the  
13 unit. No election shall be held for a unit within which a valid  
14 election was held in the preceding two (2) years.

15 On or after March 2, 1995, the board shall recognize within ten  
16 (10) days an organization which has obtained signed authorization  
17 from a majority of the employees eligible to be included in the unit  
18 but has not been recognized. No election shall be held for such  
19 unit within two (2) years of recognition. An appropriate election  
20 ballot shall be printed for this election, which contains the names  
21 of all employee organizations having presented a petition verified  
22 as signed by at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the employees  
23 eligible to be in the unit to represent or currently recognized as  
24 representing the unit; provided, no such organization shall be shown



1 on the ballot unless the organization pays to the board a filing fee  
2 of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). The ballot shall also  
3 provide an option whereby any employee of the unit may indicate a  
4 preference that the unit not be represented by any organization.  
5 Every organization that receives at least fifteen percent (15%) of  
6 the vote in the election shall be reimbursed the Two Hundred Fifty  
7 Dollars (\$250.00) by the board. The board shall use any remaining  
8 filing fee money to help offset the cost of the validation process  
9 of the petition, if any, as well as any election costs incurred.

10 2. When none of the choices on the ballot receives a majority  
11 of the votes, a runoff election shall be conducted on the fourteenth  
12 day following the first election between the two choices which  
13 received the largest number of votes in the preceding election.

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

18 If no agreement can be reached by thirty (30) days prior to the  
19 election, the board of education shall notify the county election  
20 board of the county in which the board is located of such fact, and  
21 the following method for conducting the secret ballot election shall  
22 be followed and conducted by the county election board:

- 23 a. At the time of such notice, the board of education  
24 shall provide to the county election board:

- 1 (1) a list of all the polling places for the  
2 election, such list to include every middle  
3 school or junior high school and the central  
4 administration office in the district;
- 5 (2) a list of names of all the persons eligible to  
6 vote in the election, such list to be in  
7 alphabetical order and duplicated in such number  
8 that there shall be one for each polling place,  
9 plus an additional five copies;
- 10 (3) the names of each organization entitled to have  
11 its name appear on the ballot; and
- 12 (4) the date of the election which shall not be a  
13 special election date specified by subsection B  
14 of Section 3-101 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma  
15 Statutes.

16 b. Ballots for the election shall be printed by the  
17 county election board in the same manner as for other  
18 elections conducted by the county election board,  
19 insofar as is possible. The names of organizations  
20 shall be listed on the ballot in the order in which  
21 said names are furnished to the county election board  
22 by the board of education. The option specifying that  
23 no organization shall represent the employee  
24

1 bargaining unit shall be listed last on the ballot, in  
2 such language as may be specified by the board.

3 c. The secretary of the county election board shall  
4 appoint an inspector, judge and clerk for each polling  
5 place. The inspector, judge and clerk shall be  
6 selected from among the regular precinct officials in  
7 the county.

8 d. Polling places shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00  
9 p.m. on the day of the election. Any eligible person  
10 who appears to vote no later than 7:00 p.m. shall be  
11 entitled to vote.

12 e. Eligible voters may vote after signing their  
13 signatures beside their names on the list of names of  
14 all the persons eligible to vote in the election. The  
15 voter shall place his or her ballot in the ballot box  
16 in the presence of the inspector.

17 f. Each organization entitled to have its name appear on  
18 the ballot shall be permitted to appoint one  
19 challenger at each polling place. Each such  
20 challenger shall be properly identified as such, and  
21 shall be limited to inquiring of a prospective voter,  
22 said prospective voter's name, address, job  
23 classification and work site. The challenger may  
24 challenge the right of any prospective voter to vote

1 by so informing the judge. Upon being so challenged,  
2 the prospective voter may vote if, after being  
3 informed by the judge of such a challenge, the voter  
4 signs his or her signature beside his or her name on  
5 the list of names of all the persons eligible to vote  
6 in the election. If same occurs, the judge shall  
7 write the words "Challenged by \_\_\_\_" beside the  
8 voter's signature.

9 g. The county election board shall certify in writing the  
10 results of the election to the board of education on  
11 the day following the election and on the same day  
12 shall mail a copy of the certification to all employee  
13 organizations that have requested copies of the  
14 certification.

15 h. Costs of the election shall be paid to the county  
16 election board by the board of education. The costs  
17 shall include the regular salaries of the inspector,  
18 judge, and clerk, in addition to all other necessary  
19 and reasonable costs. Such costs shall include  
20 compensation for members of the county election board,  
21 including the secretary.

22 i. Anyone guilty of voting more than one time in the  
23 election will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject  
24

1 to a fine of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) or thirty  
2 (30) days in the county jail.

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

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

10 6. Any board or organization challenging the results of any  
11 election held pursuant to the provisions of this section shall post  
12 with the district court a bond of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)  
13 which shall be forfeited if the court finds that the challenge is in  
14 bad faith.

15 7. In any February more than two (2) years after recognition of  
16 an organization pursuant to the provisions of this section and upon  
17 the receipt of a petition calling for discontinuation of  
18 representation signed by thirty-five percent (35%) of the employees  
19 eligible to be included in the unit, a board shall call an election  
20 to determine whether the members of a unit wish to discontinue being  
21 represented for bargaining. If a majority of the votes cast are  
22 votes to discontinue representation, efforts to gain recognition by  
23 any organization shall be prohibited for a period of two (2) years  
24 commencing with the expiration of the contract then in force. The

1 ballots used in such election shall, without reference to any  
2 organization by name, offer the single choice of continued  
3 representation or discontinuation of representation.

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

6 Section 1210.567 A. Upon application of a district board of  
7 education, the State Board of Education shall authorize an  
8 abbreviated day schedule for an alternative school or alternative  
9 education program that is or will be administered by the district  
10 pursuant to the provisions of this act or for the education provided  
11 for students in a residential or treatment facility located within  
12 the district. A student assigned to the alternative school, an  
13 alternative education program or receiving educational services in a  
14 residential or treatment facility within the district who attends  
15 for a full abbreviated day shall be counted in attendance for  
16 purposes of computing average daily attendance and average daily  
17 membership for the district.

18 B. A district board of education may authorize enrollment on a  
19 part-time basis utilizing Internet-based courses for students who  
20 have dropped out of school or are or have been suspended from  
21 school. State Aid shall be calculated for such students based upon  
22 the percentage of the total school day in which the student is  
23 enrolled multiplied by the appropriate grade level weight pursuant  
24 to Section 18-201.1 of this title, provided such student was

1 enrolled at any time in a public school in this state during the  
2 previous three (3) school years.

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

7 D. No later than August 1, 1994, the State Board of Education  
8 in consultation with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation  
9 shall promulgate rules by which a certified teacher who is qualified  
10 to teach in an alternative education program or alternative school  
11 as determined by the district board of education offering the  
12 alternative education program or alternative school or who teaches  
13 students in a residential or treatment facility may be certified to  
14 teach subjects in which the teacher does not hold certification.  
15 The rules shall provide:

16 1. The certification may be granted only upon application of a  
17 district board of education offering an alternative education  
18 program or alternative school pursuant to the provisions of this act  
19 or upon application of a district board of education offering a  
20 residential or treatment facility; and

21 2. The teacher's certification in subjects in which the teacher  
22 does not otherwise hold certification pursuant to the provisions of  
23 this section shall be valid only for purposes of teaching in the  
24 alternative education program or alternative school offered by the

1 district board or in a residential or treatment facility located  
2 within the district making application.

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

5 Section 1210.568 A. Beginning with the first semester of the  
6 1996-1997 school year, the State Board of Education shall implement  
7 a statewide system of alternative education programs which shall be  
8 phased-in within seven (7) years. The statewide system shall  
9 include but not be limited to Alternative Approaches grant programs,  
10 funded pursuant to Section 1210.561 of this title, and alternative  
11 academies or alternative programs implemented pursuant to this  
12 section.

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

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

19 2. Incorporate appropriate structure, curriculum, and  
20 interaction and reinforcement strategies designed to provide  
21 effective instruction;

22 3. Include an intake and screening process to determine  
23 eligibility of students;

24



1        4. Demonstrate that teaching faculty are appropriately ~~licensed~~  
2 ~~or~~ certified teachers;

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

7        6. Reflect appropriate collaborative efforts with state  
8 agencies and local agencies serving youth;

9        7. Provide courses that meet the academic curricula standards  
10 adopted by the State Board of Education and additional remedial  
11 courses;

12        8. Offer individualized instruction;

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

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

17        11. Require a plan leading to graduation be developed for each  
18 student in the program which will allow the student to participate  
19 in graduation exercises for the school district after meeting the  
20 requirements of the school district as specified in the individual  
21 graduation plan for that student; provided, for students who enter  
22 the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-08 school year, the plan  
23 shall specifically address whether the student is required to meet  
24

1 the graduation requirements established in Section 11-103.6 of this  
2 title;

3 12. Offer life skills instruction;

4 13. Provide opportunities for arts education to students,  
5 including Artists in Residence programs coordinated with the  
6 Oklahoma Arts Council;

7 14. Provide a proposed annual budget;

8 15. Include an evaluation component including an annual written  
9 self-evaluation;

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

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

19 C. The alternative education program of a school district shall  
20 be operational and serving students by September 15 of each school  
21 year.

22 D. Each alternative education program of a school district  
23 shall receive funding based on the combined number of dropouts and  
24 students within the district who have been referred to a county

1 juvenile service unit, a county juvenile bureau or who have been  
2 committed to the custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs. Each  
3 alternative education program shall receive incentive funding as  
4 follows:

5 1. For the first year of operation, One Thousand Dollars  
6 (\$1,000.00) per student;

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

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

11 Statewide alternative education funding shall not be used to  
12 supplant existing school district resources or to support programs  
13 that do not meet all the criteria for the statewide alternative  
14 education system. No alternative education program shall receive  
15 less than a total of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per school  
16 year.

17 E. By September 15 of each school year, all statewide  
18 alternative education funds received and expended for students  
19 participating in an alternative education program shall be reported  
20 to the State Department of Education by major object codes and by  
21 program classifications pursuant to the Oklahoma Cost Accounting  
22 System as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to  
23 Section 5-135 of this title.

1 F. Elementary school districts, as defined in Section 5-103 of  
2 this title, may request a waiver from the State Board of Education  
3 from the requirements of this section to implement and provide an  
4 alternative education program. Any elementary school district that  
5 has not received funding pursuant to the provisions of subsection D  
6 of this section shall be automatically granted a waiver. If a  
7 school district is granted a waiver, no statewide alternative  
8 education funding shall be allocated to the district.

9 G. 1. The State Board of Education shall contract for  
10 technical assistance for operation of an Alternative Education  
11 Technical Assistance Center. The technical assistance provider  
12 shall be an entity located in Oklahoma that has been officially  
13 recognized by the United States Department of Education to assess  
14 and facilitate dissemination of validated educational programs in  
15 Oklahoma. The technical assistance provider shall have priority, if  
16 its operations are deemed satisfactory by the State Board of  
17 Education and if funds are available, for annual renewal of the  
18 contract.

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

- 21 a. providing initial and ongoing training of personnel  
22 who will educate at-risk populations through  
23 alternative education programs,  
24

- b. providing technical assistance to school districts to enhance the probability of success of their alternative education programs,
- c. evaluating state-funded alternative education programs,
- d. reporting to the State Board of Education the evaluation results of state-funded alternative education programs, and
- e. providing in-depth program analysis and evaluation of state-funded alternative education programs.

3. The State Board of Education shall not provide funding to an alternative education program that does not receive a recommendation for continued funding in the evaluation provided for in this subsection. Provided, any school district not receiving such a recommendation for continued funding may request a hearing before the Board with a review of the evaluation prior to the Board's final determination.

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

I. An alternative education program may be offered by an individual school district or may be offered jointly by school districts that have formed interlocal cooperative agreements

1 pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title. Any school district  
2 submitting a plan for an alternative education program serving fewer  
3 than ten students shall enter into a cooperative agreement with  
4 another school district to jointly provide the program unless the  
5 program has been granted a waiver from this requirement by the State  
6 Board of Education.

7 J. Any materials or equipment purchased by a school district  
8 with revenue received for students participating in an alternative  
9 education program shall be used only in or directly for the  
10 alternative education program offered by the district or any  
11 subsequent alternative education program offered to students  
12 enrolled in that district. Such materials and equipment shall be  
13 made available exclusively to alternative education students during  
14 the hours that the alternative education program is operating;  
15 provided, the material or equipment may be used for other purposes  
16 when the alternative education program is not operating.

17 K. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in  
18 subsection M of this section and contingent upon the provision of  
19 appropriated funds designated for such purpose, all school districts  
20 in the state providing alternative education programs as required in  
21 subsection B of this section shall expand the programs to include  
22 middle-school-grade students. The program shall conform to the  
23 requirements of subsection B of this section.

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

11 M. Implementation of subsections K and L of this section shall  
12 be delayed until the current expenditure per pupil in average daily  
13 attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted  
14 dollars for the 1998-99 school year or any school year thereafter  
15 for Oklahoma, as reported by the National Center for Education  
16 Statistics annually in the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches  
17 at least ninety percent (90%) of the regional average expenditure  
18 for that same year, and funds are provided. For purposes of this  
19 subsection, the regional average expenditure shall consist of the  
20 current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public  
21 elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for each of  
22 the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New  
23 Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of  
24 each year, the State Board of Education shall report whether or not

1 the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached based on  
2 information reported annually in the Digest of Education Statistics  
3 by the National Center for Education Statistics. Subsections K and  
4 L of this section shall be implemented on July 1 after the first  
5 January 1 report verifies that the ninety-percent expenditure level  
6 has been reached and funds have been provided for the specific  
7 purposes of this section.

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

11 The State Board of Education in cooperation with the Commission  
12 for Educational Quality and Accountability, the Oklahoma State  
13 Regents for Higher Education and institutions of higher education  
14 shall conduct an educator supply-and-demand study every three (3)  
15 years. The study shall identify areas of teacher shortage and make  
16 recommendations for addressing the areas of most critical need. The  
17 Board shall submit a report outlining the findings to the Governor,  
18 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro  
19 Tempore of the Senate.

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

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



1 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
2 March 26, 2014 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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