

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

HOUSE BILL 2961

By: Young

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 246, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 6-194), which relates to district professional development programs; requiring professional development programs to add certain goal related to core curriculum areas; requiring school districts that exceed certain percentage of students from minority background to provide certain professional development program; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 246, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this state shall establish professional development programs for the certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a professional development committee appointed by the board of education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may

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

8 B. Each professional development committee shall include
9 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed
10 mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of
11 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher
12 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional
13 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The
14 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of
15 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers
16 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to
17 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

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

1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the district and each school site;
2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-mandated tests and the ACT;
4. Increasing high school graduation rates; ~~and~~
5. Decreasing college remediation rates; and
6. Improving the ability of teachers to effectively meet the academic needs of a racially, ethnically, linguistically and culturally diverse student population.

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

School districts where at least twenty percent (20%) of students are from a minority background shall provide a specific professional development program on meeting the academic needs of a racially, ethnically, linguistically and culturally diverse student population. The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic education components into professional development programs.

D. At a minimum of once an academic year a program shall be offered which includes the following:

1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and
4. Available resources.

E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to complete the autism training at least one time every three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or credit required each year through programs or courses specifically designed for school counselors.

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

1 F. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each
2 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district
3 board of education to meet the professional development requirements
4 established by the board, or established through the negotiation
5 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the
6 professional development requirements established by each board of
7 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum
8 number of the total number of points required to maintain
9 employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of
10 education professional development requirements may be grounds for
11 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure
12 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments
13 affecting the teacher. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011,
14 and June 30, 2012, a certified teacher shall not be required to
15 complete any points of the total number of professional development
16 points required. Provided, a teacher may elect to complete some or
17 all of the minimum number of points required for the two (2) fiscal
18 years and any points completed shall be counted toward the total
19 number of points required to maintain employment. If a teacher does
20 not complete some or all of the minimum number of points required
21 for one (1) or both fiscal years, the total number of points
22 required to maintain employment shall be adjusted and reduced by the
23 number of points not completed.
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1 G. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State
2 Department of Education on the district level professional
3 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results
4 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection
5 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and
6 offer a professional development program as provided for in
7 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to
8 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but
9 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not
10 to offer a program and all professional development activities
11 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

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

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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