

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

HOUSE BILL 3309

By: Baker

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 391, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 1-116), which relates to positions in school system definitions; modifying term; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 63, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 6-122.3), which relates to alternative placement teaching certificates; updating reference to certain teacher and program name; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 6-182, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 108, O.S.L. 2016 and 6-195, as amended by Section 20, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Sections 6-182 and 6-195), which relate to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; modifying definitions; changing name of residency program; directing administration of induction program as funds are available; specifying entities for administration and approval of program; providing for program curriculum; authorizing State Board of Education to promulgate program rules; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.7, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 217, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 11-103.7), which relates to early childhood education program standards; updating program name; repealing 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-203, which relates to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 391, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 1-116), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-116. As used in this title:

1. "Teacher" means any person who is employed to serve as district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor, librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher or in any other instructional, supervisory or administrative capacity. The person shall not be deemed qualified unless the person holds a valid certificate issued by and in accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education or the rules of the State Board of Career and Technology Education, to perform the particular services for which the person is employed;

2. "Superintendent" or "superintendent of schools" means the executive officer of the board of education and the administrative head of the school system of a district maintaining an accredited school, provided the person holds an administrator's certificate recognized by the State Board of Education;

3. "Principal" means any person other than a district superintendent of schools having supervisory or administrative authority over any school or school building having two or more teachers. A teaching principal shall be a principal who devotes at least one-half (1/2) the time school is in session to classroom

1 teaching. Teaching principals shall be required to hold
2 administrative certificates;

3 4. "Teachers" means, for purposes of complying with the State
4 Aid Law and other statutes, but not any other provision of law,
5 which apportion money on the basis of teaching units or the number
6 of teachers employed or qualified, all persons holding proper
7 certificates and connected in any capacity with the instruction of
8 pupils;

9 5. "~~Resident teacher~~ Inductee" means any certified teacher who
10 is employed in a local school to serve as a classroom teacher under
11 the guidance and assistance of a mentor teacher or teachers ~~and~~
12 ~~residency committee. A resident teacher shall have completed the~~
13 ~~college or school of education program of the accredited institution~~
14 ~~of higher learning from which the resident teacher graduated;~~

15 6. "Student teacher" means any student who is enrolled in an
16 institution of higher learning approved by the State Board of
17 Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by the
18 institution of higher learning and a board of education of a school
19 district to perform practice teaching under the direction of a
20 regularly employed and certified teacher. A student teacher, while
21 serving a nonsalaried internship under the supervision of a
22 certified teacher, shall be accorded the same protection of the laws
23 as that accorded the certified teacher;

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

11 A school nurse employed by a board of education shall be
12 accorded the same protection of laws and all other benefits accorded
13 a certified teacher; and

14 8. "Support employee" means an employee who provides those
15 services which are not performed by certified teachers, principals,
16 superintendents or administrators and which are necessary for the
17 efficient and satisfactory functioning of a school district.

18 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as
19 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 63, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp.
20 2017, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

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

1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has attained a retention grade point average of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or
- b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education, professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree or a master of library science degree, from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal degrees, or
- c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has qualified work experience in a field that corresponds to an area of certification as determined by the State Board of Education, and
- d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an

1 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
2 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
3 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-
4 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
5 Department of Career and Technology Education;

6 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by
7 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)
8 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject
9 matter and the number of clock or semester hours required for the
10 professional education component for each person making application
11 for an alternative placement teaching certificate based on the
12 criteria of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

13 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six
14 (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours and a maximum of
15 eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock
16 hours for the professional education component.

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

20 3. Has passed the general education and subject area portions
21 of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this
22 title in the area of specialization for which certification is
23 sought; and
24

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

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

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

20 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
21 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
22 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
23 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
24 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed

1 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
2 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

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

6 3. Participate in ~~the Residency Program established an~~
7 induction program as required in Section 6-195 of this title and
8 have the same duties and responsibilities as other ~~resident~~
9 ~~teachers, except those persons who hold a certificate~~ inductees.

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

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

19 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
20 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
21 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
22 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be
23 limited to two hundred seventy (270) clock hours of classroom
24 teaching per semester.

1 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
2 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
3 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
4 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

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

13 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
14 qualification; and

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

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

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-182, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 108, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 6-182), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

2. "Commission" means the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability;

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

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

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

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

7. "~~Residency committee~~ Induction" means a ~~committee in a school district for the purpose of providing professional support, mentorship and coaching to the resident teacher. A residency committee may consist of~~ program that provides support, mentorship and coaching to educators at the beginning of their careers or as they transition to new roles within a school or district. Induction

1 programs work with inductees to assist in all matters concerning
2 classroom management and professional development for that teacher.
3 Induction programs may involve a committee of one or more mentor
4 teachers, the principal or an assistant principal of the employing
5 school, one or more administrators designated by the school district
6 board of education, a teacher educator in a college or school of
7 education of an institution of higher education or an educator in a
8 department or school outside the institution's teacher education
9 unit. ~~If possible, qualified mentor teachers shall have expertise~~
10 ~~in the teaching field of the resident teacher and, if possible, the~~
11 ~~higher education members of the residency committee shall have~~
12 ~~expertise and experience in the teaching field of the resident~~
13 ~~teacher. However, in all cases, at least one member of the~~
14 ~~residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the~~
15 ~~teaching field of the resident teacher;~~

16 8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-
17 116 of this title;

18 9. "~~Resident teacher~~ Inductee" means any certified teacher who
19 is employed in an accredited school to serve as a teacher and the
20 school district has elected to place under the guidance and
21 assistance of a mentor teacher ~~and residency~~ or induction committee.
22 ~~The resident teacher shall have~~ Inductees shall include those
23 individuals having completed the program of the college or school of
24 education of the accredited institution of higher education from

1 which the person has been graduated, and shall have successfully
2 completed the competency examination in areas of approval in which
3 the ~~resident teacher~~ inductee seeks certification, those individuals
4 eligible for the alternative placement teaching certificate
5 according to Section 6-122.3 of this title, and those individuals
6 issued an emergency or provisional certificate according to Section
7 6-187 of this title. All teachers working in a new role, including
8 classroom teachers transitioning to a new role, shall be considered
9 inductees for purposes of induction programs;

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

13 11. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher who has been appointed
14 to provide guidance, support, coaching and assistance to a ~~resident~~
15 ~~teacher~~ an inductee employed by the school district. A mentor
16 teacher shall be a current or former classroom teacher and have a
17 minimum of two (2) years of classroom teaching experience as a
18 certified teacher.

19 ~~A mentor teacher shall be selected by the principal from a list~~
20 ~~of qualified teacher volunteers who have submitted their names for~~
21 ~~that purpose. After compilation of the list, the principal shall~~
22 ~~provide opportunity for input from the bargaining agent, where one~~
23 ~~exists. Membership or nonmembership in a professional teacher~~
24 ~~organization shall not be considered as a factor in selecting a~~

1 ~~mentor teacher.~~ When possible, a mentor teacher shall have
2 ~~successfully completed a mentor teacher professional development~~
3 ~~institute and have similar certification as the resident teacher~~
4 participated in mentor teacher professional development and have
5 expertise in the teaching field of the inductee;

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

10 13. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in
11 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for certification as a teacher
12 and shall consist of tests over general education, professional
13 education and subject areas as defined by the Commission for
14 Educational Quality and Accountability.

15 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-195, as
16 amended by Section 20, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017,
17 Section 6-195), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 6-195. A. The As funds are available, the State
19 Department of Education in consultation with the Office of
20 Educational Quality and Accountability shall administer ~~a residency~~
21 an induction program for teachers which shall be approved by the
22 State Board of Education. ~~For the 2014-2015 school year, each~~
23 ~~school district shall have the option of participating in the~~
24 ~~residency program.~~ Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each

1 school district shall participate in the ~~residency~~ induction
2 program. ~~The program shall be developed in consultation with the~~
3 ~~teacher education institutions, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
4 ~~Preparation and the district boards of education.~~ The program shall
5 include, but not be limited to:

6 1. ~~Guidelines and assignments for resident teacher positions in~~
7 ~~the~~ Guidance to school districts for successful induction programs;

8 2. ~~Requirements and guidelines for selection and appointment of~~
9 ~~mentor teachers which shall include any requirements specified in~~
10 ~~the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act~~ Training for school districts
11 to include the selection, function and duties of mentors;

12 3. ~~Guidelines for the appointment and functions of a residency~~
13 ~~committee; and~~

14 4. ~~An~~ 3. Resources for appropriate professional development,
15 support, mentorship and coaching ~~program~~ for the ~~resident teacher~~
16 inductee and mentors.

17 B. ~~Any person who has been issued a certificate to teach by the~~
18 ~~Board may be employed on a temporary or continuing contract basis as~~
19 ~~a resident teacher by an accredited school upon appointment by the~~
20 ~~district board of education or by a private or public provider of~~
21 ~~early childhood education programs as authorized in Section 11-103.7~~
22 ~~of this title~~ The State Board of Education may promulgate rules for
23 administration of the induction program.

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

6 ~~1. Meet with the resident teacher as may be required by the~~
7 ~~Board;~~

8 ~~2. Work with the resident teacher to assist in all matters~~
9 ~~concerning classroom management and professional development for~~
10 ~~that teacher; and~~

11 ~~3. Provide professional support, mentorship and coaching for~~
12 ~~the resident teacher.~~

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

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

1 ~~F. Nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring~~
2 ~~employment at the resident level before a standard certificate can~~
3 ~~be issued to a teacher.~~

4 ~~G. The professional development program shall commence with the~~
5 ~~residency year and shall require continuing education throughout the~~
6 ~~career of a teacher.~~

7 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.7, as
8 amended by Section 3, Chapter 217, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2017,
9 Section 11-103.7), is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 11-103.7 A. Each school district may offer to four-
11 year-old children the opportunity to participate in an early
12 childhood education program.

13 B. The State Board of Education shall promulgate standards for
14 early childhood education programs for children who are at least
15 four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the ensuing school
16 year. The standards shall include both half-day programs consisting
17 of not less than two and one-half (2 1/2) hours per school day, and
18 full-day programs of six (6) hours. The standards for all early
19 childhood education programs shall require a certified teacher, as
20 specified in this section, to be present in the classroom for the
21 length of the school day. Such program shall:

22 1. Be directed toward developmentally appropriate objectives
23 for such children, rather than toward academic objectives suitable
24 for older children;

1 2. Accommodate the needs of all children and families
2 regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and

3 3. Require that any teacher employed by a public school to
4 teach in such early childhood education program shall be certified
5 in early childhood education.

6 C. The superintendent of any school district providing
7 classroom space or other school facilities for a federally sponsored
8 Head Start program that is planning to make a material change in the
9 arrangement, shall give notice to the director of the Head Start
10 program at least seven (7) days prior to a school board hearing on
11 the matter.

12 D. A school district may offer such early childhood education
13 program within the district, in cooperation with other districts,
14 through the use of transfers as specified by law, or by contracting
15 with a private or public provider of early childhood education
16 programs, or by contracting for classroom space with a licensed
17 public or private child care provider based upon selection criteria
18 established by the district. If the program is provided through
19 contract with a private or public provider other than a school
20 district, the contract may only be continued if each teacher serving
21 the school on and after January 1, 1993, is certified in early
22 childhood education, except that all teachers, without such
23 certification, hired by such provider prior to January 1, 1993, and
24 serving in the school as an early childhood education teacher shall

1 be required to obtain certification on or before the beginning of
2 the 1996-97 school year. Any person who has been employed as an
3 early childhood educator with the Head Start Program, has a child
4 development associate degree (CDA) and has at least five (5) years
5 of experience in such employment shall be certified in early
6 childhood education for purposes of employment in the public schools
7 of this state to teach in early childhood education for children
8 four (4) years of age and younger; if such person is recertified in
9 child development by the Council for Early Childhood Professional
10 Recognition within five (5) years prior to the expiration of the
11 person's early childhood certificate that was issued by the State
12 Board of Education, such person shall be granted a renewal
13 certificate in early childhood education by the State Board of
14 Education upon expiration of the early childhood certificate.
15 Provided, private or public providers shall meet such other
16 standards required by law and by the State Board of Education.

17 E. If an early childhood program is provided by a private or
18 public provider pursuant to a contract as authorized in this
19 section, the contract shall address the requirements for
20 implementing the ~~residency~~ induction program ~~for resident teachers~~
21 as required in Section 6-195 of this title. Teachers employed by a
22 private or public provider in an early childhood education program
23 provided through contract with a public school district shall
24 receive in salary and/or fringe benefits amounts not less than the

1 amounts specified in the schedule set forth in Section 18-114.14 of
2 this title.

3 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
4 provide for the implementation of such program.

5 G. An early childhood education program may be offered jointly
6 by school districts that have formed interlocal cooperative
7 agreements pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title.

8 H. The term "prekindergarten" shall mean early childhood
9 education for purposes of this title.

10 I. The State Board of Education shall ensure that the standards
11 for early childhood education are aligned with any new subject
12 matter standards adopted pursuant to Section 11-103.6a of this
13 title.

14 SECTION 6. REPEALER 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-203, is
15 hereby repealed.

16 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective November 1, 2018.

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