

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE BILL 1944

By: Lepak

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 and 6-187, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 50, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Sections 6-122.3 and 6-187), which relate to teacher certification; modifying criteria for alternative teaching certificate; requiring completion of alternative teacher education program; directing State Board of Education to promulgate rules for program; deleting minimum requirements for professional education component; barring differentiation in status of an alternative teaching certificate; removing school district hiring preference for teacher with provisional or standard certificate; prohibiting classifying an alternative teaching certificate as an emergency certificate; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an alternative ~~placement~~ teaching certificate to a person who makes 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~~ complete an alternative ~~placement~~ teacher education program  
8 ~~in not more than three (3) years.~~ The State Board of Education  
9 shall ~~determine the subject matter and the number of clock or~~  
10 ~~semester hours required for the professional education component~~  
11 promulgate rules providing for alternative teacher education  
12 programs for each person making application for an alternative  
13 ~~placement~~ teaching certificate based on the criteria of paragraph 1  
14 of this subsection.

15 The State Board of Education shall ~~establish a core minimum of~~  
16 ~~six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours and a maximum of~~  
17 ~~eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock~~  
18 ~~hours for the professional education component~~ not assign an  
19 alternative teaching certificate a status which would differentiate  
20 it from a standard certificate.

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

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

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

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

23        C. Persons enrolled in an alternative ~~placement~~ teacher  
24 education program shall:

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

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

11        ~~3.~~ Participate in an induction program as required in Section  
12 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as  
13 other inductees.

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

20        E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience  
21 shall not be required of alternative ~~placement~~ teacher education  
22 program participants ~~for standard certification.~~

23        F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
24 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished

1 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be  
2 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be  
3 limited to two hundred seventy (270) clock hours of classroom  
4 teaching per semester.

5 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the  
6 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of  
7 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation  
8 in the alternative ~~placement~~ teacher education programs offered by  
9 the institution.

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

18 1. Admitted to an alternative ~~placement~~ teacher education  
19 program without further qualification; and

20 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for  
21 ~~standard~~ certification set forth in subsection A of this section  
22 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year  
23 of teaching with an alternative ~~placement~~ teaching certificate. Any  
24 person seeking ~~standard~~ certification through an alternative

1 ~~placement~~ teacher education program shall be permitted to take  
2 necessary courses during regular semesters if offered.

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

6 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, as  
7 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 50, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp.  
8 2018, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

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

19 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,  
20 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the  
21 confidentiality of examinations.

22 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for certification  
23 until successfully completing the competency examination except  
24 those candidates who make application to the State Board and meet

1 the criteria for the alternative ~~placement~~ teaching certificate  
2 program pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification  
3 shall be limited to areas of approval in which the certified teacher  
4 has successfully completed the examination. Subject to the  
5 provisions of subsection C of this section, testing for  
6 certification for subjects in which a teacher candidate or teacher  
7 is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an endorsement to teach  
8 shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

9 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,  
10 professional education or subject area portions of the examination  
11 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

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

16 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,  
17 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education  
18 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program  
19 approved by the Commission.

20 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may  
21 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the  
22 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the  
23 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher  
24 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified



1 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in  
2 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area  
3 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who  
4 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited  
5 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or  
6 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law  
7 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the  
8 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through  
9 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes  
10 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers  
11 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the  
12 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the  
13 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any special  
14 education teacher who has not completed a Commission-approved  
15 teacher education program in elementary education or early childhood  
16 education but who has successfully completed the subject area  
17 portion of the examination may be certified in elementary education  
18 or early childhood education for the purpose of providing direct  
19 instruction and serving as the teacher of record for grading  
20 purposes in special education settings only.

21 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at  
22 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the  
23 Commission.

1 E. If a teacher candidate or teacher is a non-native-English  
2 speaker, the Commission shall offer the subject area competency  
3 examination in the native language of the teacher candidate or  
4 teacher only if the teacher candidate or teacher is employed or has  
5 been offered employment by a school district as a teacher in a  
6 foreign language immersion program offered by the school district.  
7 If a non-native-English speaker who has received certification in a  
8 subject area after taking the subject area competency examination in  
9 the native language of the speaker seeks to add a certification area  
10 in the future and that person is no longer employed as a teacher in  
11 a foreign language immersion program, the examination for the  
12 additional certification area shall be taken in English. The State  
13 Board of Education shall issue a restricted license or certificate  
14 to any teacher who has completed a subject area competency  
15 examination in the native language of the teacher as provided for in  
16 this subsection restricting the teacher to teaching only in a  
17 foreign language immersion program.

18 F. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall  
19 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an  
20 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. ~~Provided, however,~~  
21 ~~prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district~~  
22 ~~shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a~~  
23 ~~provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is~~  
24 ~~unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district~~

1 ~~shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or~~  
2 ~~standard certificate in another curricular area with academic~~  
3 ~~preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives~~  
4 ~~have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an~~  
5 ~~individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State~~  
6 ~~Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates~~  
7 However, an alternative teaching certificate issued by the Board  
8 shall not be classified as an emergency certificate.

9 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

11 57-1-7445 EK 01/16/19