

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1038

By: Thompson and Hall of the
Senate

3 and

4 Wallace and Hilbert of the
5 House

6
7 An Act relating to teacher education; amending 70
8 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as last amended by Section
9 1, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020,
10 Section 1-116), which relates to positions in a
11 school system; modifying definition of student
12 teacher to allow certain compensation; prohibiting
13 compensation from being considered for certain
14 purposes; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as
last amended by Section 2, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019
(70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-186), which relates to
teacher education programs; removing language
allowing only students who have completed certain
requirement to participate in certain paid
internship; updating statutory reference; providing
an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as
19 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp.
20 2020, Section 1-116), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 1-116. As used in this title:

22 1. "Teacher" means any person who is employed to serve as
23 district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor,
24 librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher or in any other

1 instructional, supervisory or administrative capacity. The person
2 shall not be deemed qualified unless the person holds a valid
3 certificate issued by and in accordance with the rules of the State
4 Board of Education or the rules of the State Board of Career and
5 Technology Education, to perform the particular services for which
6 the person is employed;

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

12 3. "Principal" means any person other than a district
13 superintendent of schools having supervisory or administrative
14 authority over any school or school building having two or more
15 teachers. A teaching principal shall be a principal who devotes at
16 least one-half (1/2) the time school is in session to classroom
17 teaching. Teaching principals shall be required to hold
18 administrative certificates;

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

1 5. "Inductee" means any certified teacher who is employed in a
2 local school to serve as a classroom teacher under the guidance and
3 assistance of a mentor teacher or teachers;

4 6. "Student teacher" means any student who is enrolled in an
5 institution of higher learning approved by the State Board of
6 Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by the
7 institution of higher learning and a board of education of a school
8 district to perform practice teaching under the direction of a
9 regularly employed and certified teacher. A student teacher, while
10 serving an internship under the supervision of a certified teacher,
11 shall be accorded the same protection of the laws as that accorded
12 the certified teacher and shall be eligible to receive compensation
13 beginning on the first day of the internship for up to one full
14 school year; provided, however, that such compensation shall not be
15 considered compensation for purposes of teacher retirement or the
16 minimum salary schedule;

17 7. "School nurse" means a person employed full time by a board
18 of education who is a registered nurse licensed by the Oklahoma
19 State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education and is
20 certified the same as a teacher by the State Board of Education.
21 Provided, that any person who is employed as a full-time school
22 nurse in any school district in Oklahoma who is not registered on
23 ~~the effective date of this act~~ July 2, 1971, may continue to serve
24 in the same capacity; however, such person shall, under rules

1 adopted by the State Board of Education, attend classes in nursing
2 and prepare to become registered.

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

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

10 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as
11 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp.
12 2020, Section 6-186), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

19 2. A minimum grade point average as established by the
20 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability; and

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

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

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

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

1 professional development activities of all teacher education faculty
2 members. Faculty professional development reports shall be reviewed
3 by the Commission along with professional development activities as
4 a normal part of the accreditation process.

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

- 8 1. Professional development programs;
- 9 2. Higher education courses;
- 10 3. Exchange programs with public school classroom teachers,
11 administrators, and other school personnel; and
- 12 4. Programs whereby all full-time teacher education faculty
13 members directly involved in the teacher education process,
14 including all administrators of the teacher education program, are
15 required to serve in a state accredited public school for at least
16 ten (10) clock hours per school year in responsibilities related to
17 their respective teacher education teaching fields.

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

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

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

17 F. By November 1, 2017, the Commission shall adopt rules
18 requiring coursework or training in the use of digital and other
19 instructional technologies as a requisite for program accreditation.

20 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

21 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health or 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 Passed the Senate the 17th day of May, 2021.

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4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2021.

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8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives