

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 1429

By: Haste of the Senate

and

Sterling of the House

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8
9 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70
10 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, which relates to
11 alternative teaching certification; providing an
12 option of passing certain test or having certain
13 degrees; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187, as
14 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 319, O.S.L. 2021,
15 which relates to teacher competency examinations;
16 providing exemption from certain test for teacher
17 candidate or teacher with certain degrees; providing
18 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, is
24 amended to read as follows:

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

- 28 1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
29 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
30 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has

1 attained a retention grade point average of not less
2 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

3 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
4 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
5 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree,
6 or a master of library science degree, from an
7 institution accredited by a national or regional
8 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
9 Secretary of the United States Department of
10 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
11 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
12 degrees, or

13 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
14 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
15 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
16 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
17 to an area of certification as determined by the State
18 Board of Education, and

19 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b,
20 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency
21 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an
22 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
23 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
24 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-

1 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
2 Department of Career and Technology Education;

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

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

14 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
15 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
16 subsection E of this section;

17 3. Has passed the general education ~~and~~ portion of the
18 competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title or
19 has a master's degree or a doctorate degree from an institution
20 accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency which is
21 recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education;

22 4. Has passed the subject area ~~portions~~ portion of the
23 competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title in
24 the area of specialization for which certification is sought; and

1 ~~4.~~ 5. Either presents a document from an accredited public
2 school 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 an inductee for the purposes
11 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 an induction program as required in Section
7 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
8 other inductees.

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

15 E. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
16 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an
17 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination
18 for initial certification in a field which does not require an
19 advanced degree pursuant to this section if the candidate has an
20 advanced degree in a subject that is substantially comparable to the
21 content assessed on a subject area examination. The degree shall be
22 from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting
23 agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department
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1 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the
2 necessary information to determine comparability.

3 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
4 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
5 for standard certification.

6 G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
7 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
8 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
9 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be
10 limited to two hundred seventy (270) clock hours of classroom
11 teaching per semester.

12 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
13 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
14 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
15 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

16 I. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
17 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any
18 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in
19 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
20 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,
21 science, and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
22 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
23 section to be:
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1 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
2 qualification; and

3 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
4 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
5 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
6 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any
7 person seeking standard certification through an alternative
8 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
9 during regular semesters if offered.

10 J. The criteria specified in subsection I of this section can
11 be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more
12 institutions of higher education.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187, as
14 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 319, O.S.L. 2021, is amended to
15 read as follows:

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

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

6 B. 1. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for certification
7 until successfully completing the competency examination except
8 those candidates who make application to the State Board and meet
9 the criteria for the alternative placement program pursuant to
10 Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to
11 areas of approval in which the certified teacher has successfully
12 completed the examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection
13 C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in which a
14 teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment
15 or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject
16 area test.

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

20 2. A teacher candidate or teacher shall be exempt from the
21 requirement to pass the general education portion of the competency
22 examination required by this section if he or she has a master's
23 degree or a doctorate degree from an institution accredited by a
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1 national or regional accrediting agency which is recognized by the
2 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

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

7 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,
8 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
9 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
10 approved by the Commission.

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

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

12 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
13 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
14 Commission.

15 E. If a teacher candidate or teacher is a non-native-English
16 speaker, the Commission shall offer the subject area competency
17 examination in the native language of the teacher candidate or
18 teacher only if the teacher candidate or teacher is employed or has
19 been offered employment by a school district as a teacher in a
20 foreign language immersion program offered by the school district.
21 If a non-native-English speaker who has received certification in a
22 subject area after taking the subject area competency examination in
23 the native language of the speaker seeks to add a certification area
24 in the future and that person is no longer employed as a teacher in

1 a foreign language immersion program, the examination for the
2 additional certification area shall be taken in English. The State
3 Board of Education shall issue a restricted license or certificate
4 to any teacher who has completed a subject area competency
5 examination in the native language of the teacher as provided for in
6 this subsection restricting the teacher to teaching only in a
7 foreign language immersion program.

8 F. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
9 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an
10 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination
11 for initial certification in a field which does not require an
12 advanced degree if the candidate has an advanced degree in a subject
13 that is substantially comparable to the content assessed on a
14 subject area examination. The advanced degree shall be from an
15 institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency
16 which is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department
17 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the
18 necessary information to determine comparability.

19 G. 1. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
20 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
21 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
22 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
23 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
24 provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is

1 unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district
2 shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or
3 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic
4 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives
5 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an
6 individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State
7 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

8 2. The State Board of Education may renew the emergency or
9 provisional certificate of an individual who has been employed by a
10 school district board of education for at least two (2) years if the
11 following criteria are met:

- 12 a. the individual has been granted an emergency or
13 provisional certificate pursuant to paragraph 1 of
14 this subsection for two (2) years,
- 15 b. the individual has not successfully completed the
16 competency examinations required by this section,
- 17 c. the individual submits a portfolio of his or her work
18 to the State Board of Education, which shall include
19 evidence of progress toward standard certification,
- 20 d. the employing school district board of education
21 agrees to renew the individual's contract to teach for
22 the ensuing fiscal year, and
- 23 e. the superintendent of the employing school district
24 submits to the State Board of Education the reason the

1 emergency or provisional certificate should be renewed
2 and provides evidence of the district's inability to
3 hire a teacher who holds a standard certificate.

4 3. Individuals employed by a school district under an emergency
5 or provisional certificate shall not be considered career teachers
6 and therefore not entitled to the protections of the Teacher Due
7 Process Act of 1990.

8 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

9 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
10 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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14 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 04/05/2022
15 - DO PASS.
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