

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1429

By: Haste

AS INTRODUCED

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

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, 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

- 1           b.   has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as  
2               a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,  
3               professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree,  
4               or a master of library science degree, from an  
5               institution accredited by a national or regional  
6               accrediting agency which is recognized by the  
7               Secretary of the United States Department of  
8               Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
9               Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal  
10              degrees, or
- 11          c.   holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an  
12               institution whose accreditation is recognized by the  
13               Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has  
14               qualified work experience in a field that corresponds  
15               to an area of certification as determined by the State  
16               Board of Education, and
- 17          d.   in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b,  
18               and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency  
19               or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an  
20               area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary  
21               Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined  
22               by the State Board of Education or a vocational-  
23               technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma  
24               Department of Career and Technology Education;

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

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

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

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

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

23        ~~4.~~ 5. Either presents a document from an accredited public  
24 school district in this state offering employment in the area of

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

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

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

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

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

4        3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section  
5 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as  
6 other inductees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further  
23 qualification; and  
24

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18       2. A teacher candidate or teacher shall be exempt from the  
19 requirement to pass the general education portion of the competency  
20 examination required by this section if he or she has a master's  
21 degree from an institution accredited by a national or regional  
22 accrediting agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the U.S.  
23 Department of Education.  
24



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic  
2 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives  
3 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an  
4 individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State  
5 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

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

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

1                   and provides evidence of the district's inability to  
2                   hire a teacher who holds a standard certificate.

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

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

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

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