

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 4225

By: Boatman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-116, which relates to school system employees; modifying definition; adding definition for school licensed mental health professional; 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 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, school licensed mental health professional, 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;

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

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

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

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

22        6. "Student teacher" means any student who is enrolled in an  
23 institution of higher learning approved by the State Board of  
24 Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by the

1 institution of higher learning and a board of education of a school  
2 district to perform practice teaching under the direction of a  
3 regularly employed and certified teacher. A student teacher, while  
4 serving an internship under the supervision of a certified teacher,  
5 shall be accorded the same protection of the laws as that accorded  
6 the certified teacher and shall be eligible to receive compensation  
7 beginning on the first day of the internship for up to one full  
8 school year; provided, however, that such compensation shall not be  
9 considered compensation for purposes of teacher retirement or the  
10 minimum salary schedule;

11 7. "School licensed mental health professional" means a person  
12 employed full time by a board of education who is a licensed mental  
13 health professional as defined in Section 1-103 of Title 43A of the  
14 Oklahoma Statutes and is certified the same as a teacher by the  
15 State Board of Education. A school licensed mental health  
16 professional employed by a board of education shall be accorded the  
17 same protection of laws and all other benefits accorded a certified  
18 teacher;

19 8. "School nurse" means a person employed full time by a board  
20 of education who is a registered nurse licensed by the Oklahoma  
21 State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education and is  
22 certified the same as a teacher by the State Board of Education.  
23 Provided, that any person who is employed as a full-time school  
24 nurse in any school district in Oklahoma who is not registered on

1 July 2, 1971, may continue to serve in the same capacity; however,  
2 such person shall, under rules adopted by the State Board of  
3 Education, attend classes in nursing and prepare to become  
4 registered.

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

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

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

13 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
14 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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