

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 4390

By: Baker

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-204.1, which relates to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act; adding definitions; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-212, which relates to a micro-credential program for teachers; restricting program eligibility to certified teachers; including certain micro-credential stacks and endorsements in program; modifying how awarded micro-credentials may be used; authorizing rule promulgation to implement program; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-204.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-204.1 For purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act:

1. "Salary bonus" means additional monies granted to eligible teachers as provided for in subsection I of Section 6-204.2 of this title maintaining National Board certification;

2. "Salary increment" means the National Board certification salary category as set forth in Section ~~3~~ 18-114.14 of this ~~act~~ title which is granted to eligible teachers as provided for in

subsection I of Section 6-204.2 of this title maintaining National Board certification;

3. "Certification" means National Board certification;

4. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

5. "National Board" means the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

6. "National Board certification" means National Board certification as provided by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; ~~and~~

7. "Teacher" means a classroom teacher, counselor, or librarian employed by a public school district on a full-time basis;

8. "Digital badge" means a web-based artifact that contains metadata which documents a teacher's completion of a specific skill or set of skills and can be shared and verified electronically;

9. "Endorsement" means a certification earned by a certified teacher who completes a micro-credential stack which, where applicable, may be used in lieu of the subject area competency examination required by Section 6-187 of this title for subject areas that are substantially equal to the content covered in a stack;

10. "Micro-credential" means a postsecondary credential to support teacher instruction comprised of a coherent set of measurable activities or projects that provide specific career

critical skills, competencies, and knowledge that can be readily implemented in a school setting. Micro-credentials may be used to meet the professional development program requirements established in Section 6-194 of this title; and

11. "Micro-credential stack" or "stack" means a series of micro-credentials that collectively address a broad range of content-area knowledge or skills and which may be completed to earn an endorsement.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-212, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-212. A. The State Department of Education ~~in coordination with the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability~~ shall establish a micro-credential program ~~within one hundred twenty (120) days after the effective date of this act~~ for the purpose of permitting any ~~teacher candidate or~~ certified teacher ~~who holds a certificate to teach~~ to complete additional coursework and earn micro-credentials ~~in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) endorsement areas including computer science.~~ The micro-credential program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Micro-credential stacks supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) integration, provided any endorsements earned upon completion shall not substitute for the subject area competency examinations in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

1 2. Endorsements for Elementary Computer Science and Secondary
2 Computer Science.

3 B. The State Department of Education ~~and,~~ in consultation with
4 the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability and the
5 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, shall ~~convene a working~~
6 ~~group including pertinent education stakeholders to determine how if~~
7 any micro-credential awarded pursuant to any micro-credential
8 program established pursuant to subsection A of this section will
9 may be used and such uses shall include:

10 ~~1. To award add-on endorsements to teachers in STEM endorsement~~
11 ~~areas including computer science;~~

12 ~~2. In~~ in lieu of the subject area competency examination
13 required by Section 6-187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this
14 title; and

15 ~~3. To meet the professional development program requirements~~
16 ~~established in Section 6-194 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.~~

17 C. Any course offered through a micro-credential program
18 established pursuant to subsection A of this section may be offered
19 in person, online or in a blended format of in-person and online
20 instruction.

21 D. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
22 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability and the
23 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, shall promulgate rules
24 as necessary to implement the micro-credential program and ensure

1 that rigor and content adequately prepares teachers to provide
2 quality instruction.

3 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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