

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1125

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, which relates to professional development programs for teachers; removing outdated language; directing school districts to post on their websites certain information regarding professional development materials and resources; providing an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 6-194, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this state shall establish professional development programs for the certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a professional development committee appointed by the board of education for the district. ~~For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for certified teachers and administrators of the district. If a school~~

1 ~~district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development~~
2 ~~program, the district may expend any monies allocated for~~
3 ~~professional development for any purpose related to the support and~~
4 ~~maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of~~
5 ~~education of the school district.~~

6 B. Each professional development committee shall include
7 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed
8 mental health providers, and parents, guardians, or custodians of
9 children in the school district and shall consult with a faculty
10 from an institution of higher education ~~faculty~~. A majority of the
11 members of the professional development committee shall be composed
12 of classroom teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a
13 designated administrator of the school district from a list of names
14 submitted by the teachers in the school district. The members
15 selected shall be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the
16 teachers in the district.

17 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional
18 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach
19 to analyze student data and determine district and school
20 professional development needs. The professional development
21 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of
22 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum
23 areas for the following goals:
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1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the district and each school site;
2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-mandated tests and the ACT;
4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and
5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

Each program may also include components on classroom management and student discipline strategies; outreach to parents, guardians, or custodians of students; special education; and racial and ethnic education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis. The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic education components into professional development programs.

D. At a minimum of once an academic year a program shall be offered which includes the following:

1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and
4. Available resources.

E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three

1 shall be required to complete the autism training during the
2 resident year and at least one time every three (3) years
3 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals
4 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be
5 required to complete the autism training at least one time every
6 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum
7 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources
8 available, and an introduction to positive behavior supports to
9 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school
10 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or
11 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically
12 designed for school counselors.

13 Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional
14 development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited
15 to, professional development provided by the district, any state
16 agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

17 F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a
18 dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. At a minimum, the
19 program shall include:

20 1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in
21 students;

22 2. Training in effective classroom instruction to meet the
23 needs of students with dyslexia; and
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1 3. Available dyslexia resources for teachers, students and
2 parents.

3 G. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each
4 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district
5 board of education to meet the professional development requirements
6 established by the board, or established through the negotiation
7 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the
8 professional development requirements established by each board of
9 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum
10 number of the total number of points required to maintain
11 employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of
12 education professional development requirements may be grounds for
13 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure
14 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments
15 affecting the teacher. ~~For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011,~~
16 ~~and June 30, 2012, a certified teacher shall not be required to~~
17 ~~complete any points of the total number of professional development~~
18 ~~points required. Provided, a teacher may elect to complete some or~~
19 ~~all of the minimum number of points required for the two (2) fiscal~~
20 ~~years and any points completed shall be counted toward the total~~
21 ~~number of points required to maintain employment. If a teacher does~~
22 ~~not complete some or all of the minimum number of points required~~
23 ~~for one (1) or both fiscal years, the total number of points~~

1 ~~required to maintain employment shall be adjusted and reduced by the~~
2 ~~number of points not completed.~~

3 H. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State
4 Department of Education on the district level professional
5 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results
6 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection
7 C of this section. ~~If a school district elects not to adopt and~~
8 ~~offer a professional development program as provided for in~~
9 ~~subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to~~
10 ~~submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but~~
11 ~~shall report to the State Department of Education its election not~~
12 ~~to offer a program and all professional development activities~~
13 ~~completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.~~

14 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall
15 develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection H
16 of this section. The Department shall also make such information
17 available on its website.

18 J. A school district shall post on its website the professional
19 development materials to be used by teachers employed by the
20 district for each school year. To meet the requirements of this
21 subsection, a district may post links to the professional
22 development materials or resources, titles of materials or resources
23 to be used, or the materials or resources themselves.

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

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