

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1206

By: Haste

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to school employees; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-116, which relates to definitions of positions in a school system; modifying certain definition; updating references; adding definition; 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, librarian, school nurse, school licensed mental health professional, 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~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability for

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

12 7. "School nurse" means a person employed full time by a board
13 of education who is a registered nurse licensed by the ~~Oklahoma~~
14 ~~State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education~~ Oklahoma
15 Board of Nursing and is certified the same as a teacher by the State
16 Board of Education. Provided, that any person who is employed as a
17 full-time school nurse in any school district in Oklahoma who is not
18 registered on July 2, 1971, may continue to serve in the same
19 capacity; however, such person shall, under rules adopted by the
20 State Board of Education, attend classes in nursing and prepare to
21 become registered.

22 A school nurse employed by a board of education shall be
23 accorded the same protection of laws and all other benefits accorded
24 a certified teacher; ~~and~~

1 8. "School licensed mental health professional" means a person
2 employed full time by a board of education who is a licensed mental
3 health professional as defined in Section 1-103 of Title 43A of the
4 Oklahoma Statutes and is certified the same as a teacher by the
5 State Board of Education. A school licensed mental health
6 professional employed by a board of education shall be accorded the
7 same protection of law and all other benefits accorded to a
8 certified teacher; and

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

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

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

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