

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 SENATE BILL 1774

By: Dahm

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
8 Section 6-190, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 359,
9 O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 6-190),
10 which relates to teacher certification and licensure;
11 modifying requirements for teacher certification to
12 include passage of certain test beginning after
13 certain date; requiring teachers seeking renewal of
14 certain certificate to demonstrate successful passage
15 of certain test beginning after certain date;
16 prohibiting renewal of certain certificate if a
17 teacher does not pass certain test; updating
18 statutory language; updating statutory references;
19 providing an effective date; and declaring an
20 emergency.

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

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-190, as
23 amended by Section 3, Chapter 359, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2023,
24 Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

25 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school
26 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in
27 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified to teach by
28 the State Board of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher

1 Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for by Section 6-101
2 of this title and by other law.

3 B. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
4 who:

5 1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program
6 required by the Commission for Educational Quality and
7 Accountability;

8 2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher
9 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

10 3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the
11 Board;

12 4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency
13 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

14 5. Has successfully completed the competency examination
15 required in Section 6-187 of this title; ~~and~~

16 6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a
17 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State
18 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history
19 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
20 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the
21 Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective
22 until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history
23 record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible
24 for the cost of the criminal history records; and

1 7. Beginning after the effective date of this act, has passed
2 the United States naturalization test with a score of 90 out of 100
3 questions. A person may take the test as often as desired within a
4 thirty-day period. A person who does not pass the United States
5 naturalization test shall not be issued a certificate.

6 C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
7 who:

8 1. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets the requirements
9 set forth in subsection G of this section;

10 2. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional
11 Teaching Standards;

12 3. Holds an out-of-country certificate and meets the
13 requirements set forth in subsection F of this section; or

14 4. Has successfully completed a competency examination used in
15 the majority of other states or comparable customized exam and meets
16 the requirements set forth in subsection H of this section.

17 D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial
18 Oklahoma certification shall have on file with the Board a current
19 Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
20 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
21 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
22 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue
23 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of
24 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person

1 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the
2 criminal history records.

3 E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to
4 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the
5 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional
6 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher
7 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

8 F. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
9 who holds a valid out-of-country certificate and meets any
10 requirements established by the Board. The certificate to teach
11 shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most closely
12 aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-
13 of-country certificate.

14 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
15 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations
16 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the
17 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-country
18 certificate.

19 3. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
20 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
21 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
22 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
23 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
24 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may

1 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt
2 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.
3 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the
4 cost of the criminal history record checks.

5 4. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing a process by
6 which out-of-country certificates will be reviewed and evaluated for
7 purposes of awarding a certificate to teach pursuant to this
8 subsection.

9 G. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
10 who holds a valid out-of-state certificate. The certificate to
11 teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most
12 closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on
13 the out-of-state certificate.

14 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
15 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations
16 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the
17 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state
18 certificate.

19 3. A person who meets the requirements of this subsection shall
20 have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history
21 record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well
22 as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section
23 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the
24 Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may issue a

1 temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the
2 national fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The
3 person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost
4 of the criminal history record checks.

5 H. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
6 who has successfully completed a competency exam used in a majority
7 of the other states. The certificate to teach shall only be for
8 those subject areas and grade levels that correspond with a
9 certification area used in ~~Oklahoma~~ this state.

10 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
11 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
12 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
13 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
14 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
15 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may
16 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt
17 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.
18 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the
19 cost of the criminal history record checks.

20 I. Beginning after the effective date of this act, any teacher
21 seeking renewal of his or her standard teaching certificate shall
22 demonstrate successful passage of the United States naturalization
23 test with a score of 90 out of 100 questions. A teacher may take
24 the test as often as desired within a thirty-day period. A teacher

1 who does not pass the United States naturalization test shall not
2 have his or her standard teaching certificate renewed.

3 J. 1. The Board may establish new levels of teacher
4 certificates: advanced, lead, and master. Each level shall have a
5 minimum salary increase requirement paid by the school district and
6 matched with state dollars from the lottery funds as provided in
7 Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes. The advanced
8 certificate shall include a minimum salary increase of Three
9 Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), the lead certificate shall include a
10 minimum salary increase of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), and
11 the master certificate shall include a minimum salary increase of
12 Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and maximum salary increase of
13 Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00).

14 2. A teacher who works in a school with an enrollment of forty
15 percent (40%) or more of students who are economically disadvantaged
16 as defined in Section 18-109.5 of this title or a school district
17 with an enrollment of fewer than one thousand students shall be paid
18 a one-time award in addition to the salary increases provided in
19 paragraph 1 of this subsection:

- 20 a. One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for an
21 advanced certificate,
22 b. Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for a
23 lead certificate, and
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1 c. Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for a master
2 certificate.

3 3. School districts may identify and designate the highest
4 quality teachers for advanced, lead, and master certificates.
5 Participating districts shall submit designation plans to the State
6 Department of Education for evaluation and approval. Districts
7 shall have local control and flexibility in determining how to
8 evaluate teachers and assign designations, but, at a minimum, the
9 designation system shall include a teacher observation, out-of-
10 classroom time, and a student performance component.

11 a. Teacher observation shall be based on the district's
12 selected Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
13 Evaluation System (TLE) evaluation tool or an
14 alternate method of evaluation, ~~7~~ provided, ~~7~~ the method
15 is evidenced-based. Alternate methods of evaluation
16 shall not replace the requirements of Section 6-101.16
17 of this title.

18 b. Each school district that elects to participate in
19 assigning advanced, lead, and master teacher
20 certificates shall include an out-of-classroom
21 component for its assigned teachers to allow for
22 professional growth opportunities while staying in the
23 classroom. How out-of-classroom time is allotted and
24 managed shall be determined by the school district and

1 submitted as part of its designation plan to the State
2 Department of Education for review and approval.

3 c. Student performance measures may be determined by the
4 district and may include, but shall not be limited to,
5 pre- and post-tests, summative or formative, and
6 portfolios. The school district application shall
7 show evidence of validity and reliability of the
8 measures.

9 Districts may use additional factors in determining which
10 teachers are eligible to receive a designation, such as student
11 surveys, teacher leadership responsibilities, teacher mentorship
12 responsibilities, family surveys, demonstration of district core
13 values, teacher peer surveys, and contributions to the broader
14 school community. No more than ten percent (10%) of each school
15 district's teachers may be designated as an advanced, lead, or
16 master teacher in any given school year.

17 4. If a school district chooses to participate in this program,
18 the state shall match the amount the district pays above base pay,
19 up to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) per teacher.

20 5. School districts that designate teachers for advanced, lead,
21 and master certificates do not have to participate in annual TLE
22 evaluations for the designated teachers.

23 6. School districts may designate teachers for advanced, lead,
24 or master certificates two times per year, once prior to the
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1 beginning of the school year, and once prior to the beginning of the
2 second semester. Teachers statewide who receive these designations
3 shall be placed in professional development cohorts and provided
4 additional training opportunities from the State Department of
5 Education.

6 7. After initial approval by the State Department of Education,
7 the Department shall review and validate each participating school
8 district's teacher evaluation system biennially.

9 8. The State Department of Education shall annually report the
10 school districts participating in the program, the number of
11 advanced, lead, and master certificates awarded, and the total
12 amount in state match funding that was distributed to teachers.

13 ~~J.~~ K. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
14 implement a renewal schedule and associated fees for advanced, lead,
15 and master teaching certificates. The rules shall allow a teacher
16 that no longer meets the requirements of an advanced, lead, or
17 master teaching certificate to make application for the standard
18 teaching certificate.

19 ~~K.~~ L. The terms of the contracts issued to those holding
20 advanced, lead, and master teaching certificates shall include the
21 following:

22 1. Advanced: an additional five (5) days to be used to
23 strengthen instructional leadership. A person with an advanced
24 teaching certificate shall receive an annual salary increase of at
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1 least Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) or the district's daily
2 rate of pay, whichever is higher, in addition to the salary for
3 which the teacher qualifies pursuant to Section ~~18-114.14~~ 18-114.15
4 of this title. This increase shall be matched by state dollars from
5 the lottery funds as provided in Section 713 of Title 3A of the
6 Oklahoma Statutes and shall be paid as regular annual compensation
7 directly to teachers through school districts;

8 2. Lead: an additional ten (10) days to be used to strengthen
9 instructional leadership. A person with a lead teaching certificate
10 shall receive an annual salary increase of at least Five Thousand
11 Dollars (\$5,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever
12 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies
13 pursuant to Section ~~18-114.14~~ 18-114.15 of this title. This
14 increase shall be matched by state dollars from the lottery funds as
15 provided in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes and
16 shall be paid as regular annual compensation directly to teachers
17 through school districts; and

18 3. Master: an additional fifteen (15) days to be used to
19 strengthen leadership. A person with a master teaching certificate
20 shall receive an annual salary increase of at least Ten Thousand
21 Dollars (\$10,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever
22 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies
23 pursuant to Section ~~18-114.14~~ 18-114.15 of this title. This
24 increase, up to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00), shall be

1 matched by state dollars from the lottery funds as provided in
2 Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes and shall be paid
3 as regular annual compensation directly to teachers through school
4 districts.

5 If a person with an advanced, lead, or master teaching
6 certificate changes school districts during the life of the
7 certificate, the terms of the contracts required in this subsection
8 shall be subject to approval by the new employing school district.

9 ~~I.~~ M. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the Department
10 shall make the teaching certificates provided for in this section
11 available for any person who has received a recommendation from his
12 or her school district and who meets the eligibility criteria as
13 outlined in each school district's teacher evaluation system
14 provided for in subsection ~~I.~~ J of this section.

15 ~~M.~~ N. The funding necessary for the administration of this
16 section shall be provided from the Teacher Empowerment Revolving
17 Fund created in Section ~~2~~ 6-190.2 of this ~~act~~ title. If funding for
18 the administration of the teaching certificates listed in subsection
19 ~~I.~~ J is not available, the Department shall not be required to
20 fulfill the requirements listed in subsections ~~I, K, and~~ J, L, and M
21 of this section.

22 ~~N.~~ O. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
23 implement the provisions of Section 6-180 et seq. of this title.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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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