

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1905

By: Pugh

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teacher preparation; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508F, which relates to reading competencies for certain teachers; modifying agency responsible for ensuring certain competencies are included for special education teachers; removing certain agency from certain collaboration; directing certain training in the science of reading; modifying five elements of reading; modifying date by which teacher candidates enrolled in certain programs must pass certain assessment; requiring teacher candidates in early childhood education and elementary education programs to pass certain assessment; modifying institutions of higher education responsible for administering certain assessment; requiring certain results to be electronically reported; updating statutory reference; updating statutory language; 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 1210.508F, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508F. A. ~~The State Board of Education~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall ensure that the reading competencies for elementary teachers are included in the competencies for special education teachers.

1 B. ~~The State Board of Education and the Commission for~~  
2 Educational Quality and Accountability in collaboration with the  
3 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall ensure that all  
4 teachers of early childhood education, elementary education, and  
5 special education are provided quality training in intervention,  
6 instruction, and remediation strategies ~~in order to meet the needs~~  
7 ~~of students in kindergarten through third grade who are determined~~  
8 ~~to be at risk of reading difficulties~~ in the science of reading to  
9 provide explicit and systematic instruction in phonological  
10 awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and  
11 implement reading strategies that research has shown to be  
12 successful in improving reading among students with reading  
13 difficulties. In addition, quality education for prospective  
14 teachers shall be provided in research-based instructional  
15 strategies for instruction, assessment, and intervention for  
16 literacy development for all students, including advanced readers,  
17 typically developing readers, and struggling readers who are coping  
18 with a range of challenges, including, but not limited to, English  
19 learners and learners with handicapping conditions and learning  
20 disabilities (including dyslexia). Quality training shall include  
21 guidance from professional resources such as the Report of the  
22 National Reading Panel, Response to Intervention guidelines, and  
23 professional organizations such as the Council for Exceptional  
24 Children, International Dyslexia Association, International Literacy

1 Association, National Council of Teachers of English, and National  
2 Association for the Education of Young Children.

3 C. All institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
4 Education that offer elementary, early childhood education, or  
5 special education programs approved by the Commission for  
6 Educational Quality and Accountability shall incorporate into those  
7 programs the requirement that teacher candidates study the five  
8 elements of reading instruction which are ~~phonemic~~ phonological  
9 awareness, ~~phonics~~ decoding, ~~reading~~ fluency, vocabulary, and  
10 comprehension. Teacher candidates shall study strategies including,  
11 but not limited to, instruction that is explicitly taught,  
12 sequenced, multimodal (reading, writing, speaking, listening, hands-  
13 on, etc.), multidisciplinary, and reflective to adapt for individual  
14 learners.

15 D. Effective July 1, ~~2010~~ 2025, teacher candidates enrolled in  
16 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education  
17 in a special education, early childhood education, or elementary  
18 education program approved by the Commission for Educational Quality  
19 and Accountability shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive  
20 assessment to measure their teaching skills in the area of reading  
21 instruction. The assessment shall be developed and administered by  
22 the institutions that offer special education, early childhood  
23 education, and elementary education programs that lead to  
24 certification. The assessment shall measure the knowledge and

1 understanding of the teacher candidate in the teaching of the five  
2 elements of reading instruction which are ~~phonemic~~ phonological  
3 awareness, ~~phonics~~ decoding, ~~reading~~ fluency, vocabulary, and  
4 comprehension. The results of the assessment shall be  
5 electronically reported annually by the institution to the  
6 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability as a part of  
7 the required annual report for the institution. The Commission  
8 shall include the data in the annual report to the ~~Oklahoma~~  
9 Legislature as required pursuant to Section 6-186 of this title. It  
10 is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that teachers graduating  
11 from institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
12 Education have the knowledge and skills to effectively teach reading  
13 to all children.

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

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

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