

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3544

By: Talley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2021, Section 405.4, which relates to master teachers; providing that director may qualify as master teacher; allowing directors to be eligible for probationary periods; providing who shall be considered a master teacher; clarifying when probationary period applies; providing that certain persons shall have the authority of master teachers; providing instructions on how to determine number of master teachers for Stars compliance; providing standard by which to determine enrollment; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 405.4, is amended to read as follows:

Section 405.4 A. Any person with a bachelor's degree or postgraduate degree shall be considered as having met the educational requirements for a director of a full-time child care center required by the Department of Human Services. Nothing in this section shall be construed as to affect annual continuing education requirements. The director of a child care center may

1 also qualify as a master teacher when meeting the master teacher
2 qualifications. Directors qualifying as master teachers are
3 eligible for probationary periods.

4 B. Any person with an associate's degree, bachelor's degree,
5 postgraduate degree, or two (2) years of experience in a
6 professional child care setting or related educational field shall
7 be considered as having met the educational requirements for a
8 master teacher for children of all ages. Nothing in this section
9 shall be construed as to affect annual continuing education
10 requirements.

11 ~~B.~~ C. Any person replacing a master teacher at a child care
12 center, including newer and expanding child care centers, shall be
13 granted a one-year probationary period to fulfill the educational
14 qualifications required by the Department for a master teacher.
15 During the probationary period, the person pursuing the educational
16 qualifications needed for master teacher shall carry the full
17 authority of a master teacher. The Department may extend the
18 probationary period an additional year as long as the person is
19 actively pursuing that goal.

20 ~~C.~~ D. Licensed child care facilities opened or expanded before
21 November 1, 2016, shall have thirty-five (35) square feet of floor
22 area per infant in rooms occupied only by infants. New construction
23 and existing space not previously licensed for child care after
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1 November 1, 2016, shall have forty (40) square feet of floor area
2 per infant in rooms occupied only by infants.

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 426 of Title 10, unless there is
5 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 The number of master teachers required for Reaching for the
7 Stars program compliance shall be based on the number of children
8 enrolled in the child care center. For purposes of this section,
9 enrollment shall be determined by rounding to the nearest whole
10 number according to standard mathematical practices.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

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