

<DateSubmitted>

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President:  
Mr. Speaker:

The Conference Committee, to which was referred

**HB2679**

By: Baker of the House and Rader of the Senate

Title: Schools; making an appropriation to the State Board of Education; directing establishment of pilot program to employ literacy instructional team; effective date; emergency.

Together with Engrossed Senate Amendments thereto, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration and herewith return the same with the following recommendations:

1. That the Senate recede from its amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

House Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Senate Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SENATE CONFEREES**

Rader	_____
Pugh	_____
Pemberton	_____
Paxton	_____
Murdock	_____
Dossett	_____

1 ENGROSSED SENATE AMENDMENT  
TO

2 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
3 BILL NO. 2679

By: Baker and West (Tammy) of  
the House

4 and

5 Rader of the Senate

6  
7 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70  
8 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, which relates to the  
9 teacher certification pathways pilot program;  
10 modifying provider program requirements; updating  
11 statutory citation; requiring provider to submit  
12 certain annual report; modifying end date for pilot  
13 program; providing an effective date; and declaring  
14 an emergency.

13 AUTHOR: Add the following Senate Coauthors: Thompson (Kristen),  
14 Bergstrom, Coleman, Stanley, Newhouse, Garvin, Pederson,  
and Daniels

15 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Page 1, strike the title, enacting clause and  
16 entire bill and insert

17 "An Act relating to schools; making an appropriation  
18 to the State Board of Education; providing purpose;  
19 directing the State Department of Education to  
20 establish certain pilot program to employ a literacy  
21 instructional team; providing for technical  
22 assistance and program implementation guidance to  
23 team members and schools; directing team members to  
24 be placed regionally statewide; providing duties for  
team; providing training requirements for team  
members; providing for Department oversight of team;  
establishing minimum criteria for team employees;  
providing hiring preferences for team members with  
certain knowledge and training; requiring submission  
of report by certain date; prescribing contents of

1 report; providing for codification; providing an  
2 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

3  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

5 SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated to the State Board of  
6 Education from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the  
7 General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year  
8 beginning July 1, 2023, the sum of Ten Million Dollars  
9 (\$10,000,000.00). These monies shall be used to implement the  
10 provisions of Section 2 of this act.

11 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508H of Title 70, unless  
13 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the State  
15 Department of Education shall establish a three-year pilot program  
16 to employ a literacy instructional team to support school districts  
17 in implementation of the requirements of Section 1210.508C of Title  
18 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Department shall provide technical  
19 assistance for literacy instruction, dyslexia, and related  
20 disorders, and serve as a primary source of information and support  
21 for schools in addressing the needs of students struggling with  
22 literacy, dyslexia, and related disorders.

23 B. The Department shall employ a literacy instructional team  
24 with team members who are placed regionally across the state. The

1 literacy instructional teams shall assist general education and  
2 special education teachers in recognizing educational needs to  
3 improve literacy outcomes for all students including those with  
4 dyslexia or identified with the risk characteristics associated with  
5 dyslexia. The role of the literacy instructional team shall also  
6 include increasing professional awareness and instructional  
7 competencies to meet the educational needs of all students including  
8 those with dyslexia or identified with risk characteristics  
9 associated with dyslexia. The Department shall prioritize supports  
10 and interventions including enrollment in reading trainings and  
11 professional development for schools which have the highest  
12 percentage of students who do not demonstrate sufficient reading  
13 skills as established by the State Board of Education.

14 C. Literacy instructional team members employed by the  
15 Department shall have training in:

- 16 1. The science of how students learn to read including  
17 phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension,  
18 writing, and language;
- 19 2. Foundation of multisensory, explicit, systematic, and  
20 structured reading instruction;
- 21 3. Identification of and the appropriate interventions,  
22 accommodations, and teaching techniques for struggling students;
- 23 4. The requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act;
- 24 5. Special education laws and procedures; and

1        6. Appropriate interventions, accommodations, and assistive  
2 technology supports for students with dyslexia or a related  
3 disorder.

4        D. The literacy instructional team members employed by the  
5 Department shall report to the Director of Reading Sufficiency and  
6 have:

7        1. A minimum of five regional literacy leads, at least one who  
8 shall be designated by the Department as a dyslexia specialist to  
9 provide school districts with support and resources that are  
10 necessary to assist students with dyslexia. The Department shall  
11 give preference to educators applying for regional literacy lead  
12 who:

- 13            a. have an endorsement or certification as a certified  
14                structured literacy dyslexia specialist or certified  
15                academic language therapist,
- 16            b. are knowledgeable of multitiered systems of support,  
17                and
- 18            c. have been trained in the identification of and  
19                intervention for dyslexia and related disorders  
20                including best practice interventions and treatment  
21                models for dyslexia; and

22        2. A minimum of ten literacy specialists. The Department shall  
23 give preference to educators applying for literacy specialist who:

- 24            a. have training in the science of reading,

- 1           b.    are knowledgeable of multitiered systems of support,  
2                    and  
3           c.    have been trained in the identification of and  
4                    intervention for dyslexia and related disorders  
5                    including best practice interventions and treatment  
6                    models for dyslexia.

7           E.    The State Department of Education shall submit a report to  
8 the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the  
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2026, that  
10 includes an evaluation of the pilot program by school districts,  
11 data on whether the program had an impact on increasing the number  
12 of students who demonstrate proficiency in reading, and  
13 recommendations for changes to the Reading Sufficiency Act.

14           SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

15           SECTION 4. 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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1 Passed the Senate the 27th day of April, 2023.

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3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
6 2023.

7  
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the House  
10 of Representatives



1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2679

By: Baker and West (Tammy) of  
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7 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70  
8 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, which relates to the  
9 teacher certification pathways pilot program;  
10 modifying provider program requirements; updating  
11 statutory citation; requiring provider to submit  
12 certain annual report; modifying end date for pilot  
13 program; providing an effective date; and declaring  
14 an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 6-133. A. As used in this section:

19 1. "Provider" means an eligible entity that seeks or has  
20 obtained approval of an alternative teacher preparation program  
21 consistent with this section; and

22 2. "Program" means content provided by a provider that leads  
23 toward licensure in a specific content area.

24 B. The State Board of Education shall identify providers to  
implement new and innovative pathways toward teacher certification

1 on a pilot program basis. Providers seeking to participate in the  
2 pilot program shall submit applications to the State Board of  
3 Education.

4 C. A provider chosen by the State Board of Education to  
5 participate in the pilot program shall offer a program that:

6 1. Provides evidence and history of fiscal solvency, capacity,  
7 operation, and program effectiveness;

8 2. Provides evidence of necessary infrastructure to provide  
9 accurate, timely, and secure data for the purpose of admission,  
10 teacher candidate monitoring, testing, and certification  
11 recommendations;

12 3. Has policies and procedures in place ensuring the security  
13 of teacher candidate records under applicable laws and regulations;

14 4. Has the instructional capacity ~~or~~ within an existing novice  
15 teacher support program, the ability to obtain the instructional  
16 capacity, or has established a partnership with an accredited higher  
17 education institution to provide adequate instruction in accordance  
18 with this subsection;

19 5. Offers an instructional phase that provides intensive  
20 preparation before the teacher candidates assume classroom  
21 responsibilities;

22 6. Offers a research-based and results-oriented approach  
23 focused on best teaching practices to increase student achievement  
24 and growth measured against state academic standards;

1        7. Provides assessment, supervision, and evaluation of teacher  
2 candidates to determine their specific needs throughout the program  
3 and to support efforts to successfully complete the program;

4        8. Provides intensive and ongoing professional development  
5 opportunities that accelerate a teacher candidate's professional  
6 growth, support student learning, and provide a workplace  
7 orientation, professional staff development, and mentoring;

8        9. Offers peer review focused on standards of professional  
9 practice and continuous professional growth; and

10       10. Provides a process to review a teacher candidate's final  
11 competency of required certification content standards that leads to  
12 a potential candidate being recommended for teacher certification in  
13 accordance with subsection F of this section.

14       D. The State Board of Education shall ensure that providers  
15 approved to participate in the pilot program allow teacher  
16 candidates to demonstrate pedagogy and content standard proficiency  
17 in school-based programs and through other nontraditional means.  
18 Nontraditional means may include, but not be limited to, previous  
19 work experience, teacher experience, educator evaluations, industry-  
20 recognized certifications, and other essentially equivalent  
21 demonstrations.

22       E. If the State Board of Education determines that a provider  
23 fails to meet or is deficient in any of the requirements of this  
24 section, it may suspend or revoke the approval of the provider after

1 providing notification of the deficiencies and an opportunity to  
2 remedy the deficiencies.

3 F. A teacher candidate that completes a program offered by an  
4 approved provider shall be eligible for certification, provided he  
5 or she meets the certification requirements set forth in Section 6-  
6 187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title in the area of  
7 specialization for which certification is sought and is recommended  
8 for certification by the approved provider.

9 G. The State Board of Education shall issue a certificate to  
10 teach to any person who meets the requirements set forth in this  
11 section and who has 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. The  
15 person applying for the certificate shall be responsible for the  
16 cost of the criminal history ~~records~~ record checks.

17 H. A provider shall submit a report to the State Department of  
18 Education after one (1) year of operation showing the percentage of  
19 teacher candidates who have completed the program and who have  
20 successfully completed or who have failed the competency  
21 examinations for certification and the provider's efforts to help  
22 candidates successfully pass the examinations. A provider shall  
23 annually submit ~~evidence~~ a report to the State Department of  
24

1 Education ~~after the pilot year with evidence of~~ outlining the  
2 success of the program.

3 I. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to  
4 implement the provisions of this section.

5 J. The pilot program created in this section shall end no later  
6 than July 1, ~~2024~~ 2026.

7 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

8 SECTION 7. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
9 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
10 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
11 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

12 Passed the House of Representatives the 13th day of March, 2023.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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17 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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