

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 48

By: Stanley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-106.1, which relates to mentor teacher stipends; directing the allocation of funds to school districts in certain amount for certain purpose; directing a mentor teacher to provide certain support to certain teachers over certain time period; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-182, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 220, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 6-182), which relates to definitions under the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; updating certain definition; modifying certain 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 6-106.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-106.1. ~~If funds are appropriated to the A.~~ The State Board of Education shall allocate funds to school districts for Mentor Teacher Stipends, ~~the funds shall be distributed by the Board to the school districts to provide a stipend of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) in an amount equivalent to Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year~~ for each mentor teacher as defined in Section 6-182 of this title who provides three (3) years of

1 mentoring to newly certified teachers. ~~In addition to the~~  
2 ~~distribution of the five-hundred-dollar stipend, each district shall~~  
3 ~~also receive the district's contribution amount necessary to meet~~  
4 ~~the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (F.I.C.A.) requirements.~~

5 B. A mentor teacher shall provide guidance, support, coaching,  
6 and assistance to teachers who have earned certification pursuant to  
7 Section 6-187 of this title and teachers seeking alternative  
8 certification pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title in their  
9 first year of teaching and for two (2) subsequent years. A mentor  
10 teacher may be a current or retired classroom teacher.

11 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-182, as  
12 amended by Section 3, Chapter 220, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022,  
13 Section 6-182), is amended to read as follows:

14 Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

15 1. "Board" means the State Board of Education;

16 2. "Commission" means the Commission for Educational Quality  
17 and Accountability;

18 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
19 Education;

20 4. "Professional development program" means the program  
21 mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous  
22 improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of  
23 this state;

1           5. "Teacher education professional development committee" means  
2 the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the  
3 continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in  
4 teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

5           6. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

6           7. "Induction" means a program that provides support,  
7 mentorship, and coaching to educators at the beginning of their  
8 careers or as they transition to new roles within a school or  
9 district. Induction programs work with inductees to assist in all  
10 matters concerning classroom management and professional development  
11 for that teacher. Induction programs may involve a committee of one  
12 or more mentor teachers, the principal or an assistant principal of  
13 the employing school, one or more administrators designated by the  
14 school district board of education, a teacher educator in a college  
15 or school of education of an institution of higher education, or an  
16 educator in a department or school outside the institution's teacher  
17 education unit;

18           8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-  
19 116 of this title;

20           9. "Inductee" means any certified teacher who is employed in an  
21 accredited school to serve as a teacher and the school district has  
22 elected to place under the guidance and assistance of a mentor  
23 teacher or induction committee. Inductees shall include those  
24 individuals having completed the program of the college or school of

1 education of the accredited institution of higher education from  
2 which the person ~~has been~~ graduated, and ~~shall have~~ having  
3 successfully completed the competency examination in areas of  
4 approval in which the inductee seeks certification, those  
5 individuals eligible for the alternative placement teaching  
6 certificate ~~according~~ pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title, and  
7 those individuals issued an emergency or provisional certificate  
8 ~~according~~ pursuant to Section 6-187 of this title. All teachers  
9 working in a new role, including classroom teachers transitioning to  
10 a new role, shall be considered inductees for purposes of induction  
11 programs;

12 10. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been issued a  
13 certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher  
14 Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

15 11. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher who has been appointed  
16 to provide guidance, support, coaching, and assistance to an  
17 inductee employed by the school district. A mentor teacher shall be  
18 a current or former classroom teacher ~~and have~~ who has a minimum of  
19 ~~two (2)~~ five (5) years of classroom teaching experience as a  
20 certified teacher, has a master's degree or has received National  
21 Board Certification, has received district evaluation ratings of  
22 "superior" or "highly effective" pursuant to the Oklahoma Teacher  
23 and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System, and has received mentor

1 training from the State Department of Education or the Commission  
2 for Educational Quality and Accountability.

3 When possible, a mentor teacher shall have participated in  
4 mentor teacher professional development and have expertise in the  
5 teaching field of the inductee;

6 12. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is  
7 employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher  
8 education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the  
9 preparation of education personnel; and

10 13. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in  
11 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for certification as a teacher  
12 and shall consist of tests over professional education and subject  
13 areas as defined by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
14 Accountability.

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

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

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