

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend SB553 \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the printed Bill  
Page \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Lines \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the Engrossed Bill

By deleting the content of the entire measure, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

**AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS**

Amendment submitted by: Danny Sterling

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

PROPOSED OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR ENGROSSED  
SENATE BILL NO. 553

By: Pugh and Thompson of the  
Senate

and

Sterling of the House

PROPOSED OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 445, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-104), which relates to the powers and duties of the State Board of Education; adding reason for which a certificate cannot be issued or can be revoked; limiting the State Board of Education's authority to revoke or suspend licenses or certificates; requiring emergency to summarily revoke or suspend a license or certificate; requiring certain notice; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.1, which relates to a prohibition on certification of individuals convicted of certain offenses; adding reason for which a certificate cannot be issued; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 5-142, which relates to criminal history record checks for school employment; requiring certain letter to include certain information; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.22, which relates to reasons for dismissal of career teachers; adding reason for dismissal; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-194), which relates to professional development programs; directing certain program to include information about certain reporting requirements; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.163, as amended by Section 46, Chapter 59, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 1210.163), which relates to requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect; requiring school

employees to annually sign certain attestation;  
updating statutory language; updating statutory  
references; 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 3-104, as  
last amended by Section 2, Chapter 445, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
2024, Section 3-104), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-104. A. The supervision of the public school system  
of Oklahoma shall be vested in the State Board of Education and,  
subject to limitations otherwise provided by law, the State Board of  
Education shall:

1. Adopt policies and make rules for the operation of the  
public school system of the state;

2. Appoint, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation of a  
secretary, an attorney, and all other personnel necessary for the  
proper performance of the functions of the State Board of Education.  
The secretary shall not be a member of the Board;

3. Submit to the Governor a departmental budget based upon  
major functions of the State Department of Education as prepared by  
the Superintendent of Public Instruction and supported by detailed  
data on needs and proposed operations as partially determined by the  
budgetary needs of local school districts filed with the State Board  
of Education for the ensuing fiscal year. Appropriations therefor

1 shall be made in lump-sum form for each major item in the budget as  
2 follows:

- 3 a. State Aid to schools,
- 4 b. the supervision of all other functions of general and  
5 special education including general control, free  
6 textbooks, school lunch, Indian education, and all  
7 other functions of the Board and an amount sufficient  
8 to adequately staff and administer these services, and
- 9 c. the Board shall determine the details by which the  
10 budget and the appropriations are administered.  
11 Annually, the Board shall make preparations to  
12 consolidate all of the functions of the Department in  
13 such a way that the budget can be based on two items,  
14 administration and aid to schools. A maximum amount  
15 for administration shall be designated as a part of  
16 the total appropriation;

17 4. On the first day of December preceding each regular session  
18 of the Legislature, prepare and deliver electronically to the  
19 Governor and the Legislature a report for the year ending June 30  
20 immediately preceding the regular session of the Legislature. The  
21 report shall contain:

- 22 a. detailed statistics and other information concerning  
23 enrollment, attendance, expenditures including State  
24

1 Aid, and other pertinent data for all public schools  
2 in this state,

3 b. reports from each and every division within the State  
4 Department of Education as submitted by the  
5 Superintendent of Public Instruction and any other  
6 division, department, institution, or other agency  
7 under the supervision of the Board,

8 c. recommendations for the improvement of the public  
9 school system of the state,

10 d. a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the  
11 State Board of Education for the past year, and

12 e. a statement of plans and recommendations for the  
13 management and improvement of public schools and such  
14 other information relating to the educational  
15 interests of the state as may be deemed necessary and  
16 desirable;

17 5. Provide for the formulation and adoption of curricula,  
18 courses of study, and other instructional aids necessary for the  
19 adequate instruction of pupils in the public schools;

20 6. Have authority in matters pertaining to the licensure and  
21 certification of persons for instructional, supervisory, and  
22 administrative positions and services in the public schools of the  
23 state subject to the provisions of Section 6-184 of this title, and  
24 shall formulate rules governing the issuance and revocation of

1 certificates for superintendents of schools, principals,  
2 supervisors, librarians, clerical employees, school nurses, school  
3 bus drivers, visiting teachers, classroom teachers, and for other  
4 personnel performing instructional, administrative, and supervisory  
5 services, but not including members of boards of education and other  
6 employees who do not work directly with pupils, and may charge and  
7 collect reasonable fees for the issuance of such certificates:

- 8       a. the State Department of Education shall not issue a  
9       certificate to and shall revoke the certificate of any  
10      person who has been convicted, whether upon a verdict  
11      or plea of guilty or upon a plea of nolo contendere,  
12      or received a suspended sentence or any probationary  
13      term for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime  
14      provided for in Section 843.5 of Title 21 of the  
15      Oklahoma Statutes if the offense involved sexual abuse  
16      or sexual exploitation as those terms are defined in  
17      Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
18      Section 741, 843.1, if the offense included sexual  
19      abuse or sexual exploitation, 865 et seq., 885, 888,  
20      891, 1021, 1021.2, 1021.3, 1040.13a, 1087, 1088,  
21      1111.1, 1114, or 1123 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma  
22      Statutes or who enters this state and who has been  
23      convicted, received a suspended sentence, or received  
24      a deferred judgment for a crime or attempted crime

1 which, if committed or attempted in this state, would  
2 be a crime or an attempt to commit a crime provided  
3 for in any of the laws, ~~and~~

4 b. the State Department of Education shall not issue a  
5 certificate to and shall revoke the certificate of any  
6 person who has been convicted, whether upon a verdict  
7 or plea of guilty or upon a plea of nolo contendere,  
8 or received a suspended sentence or any probationary  
9 term for knowingly and willfully failing to report  
10 suspected abuse or neglect of a child in violation of  
11 Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes,

12 c. the State Board of Education shall have the authority  
13 to revoke or suspend a license or certificate for only  
14 the following reasons:

- 15 (1) a willful violation of any state or federal law,  
16 (2) the abuse or neglect of a child,  
17 (3) moral turpitude, or  
18 (4) a conviction for any of the offenses or basis for  
19 revocation set forth in this section and Section  
20 3-104.1 of this title,

21 d. The State Board of Education shall not have the  
22 authority to summarily revoke or suspend a license or  
23 certificate pending an individual proceeding for  
24 revocation or other action unless for a valid

1       emergency as defined in the Oklahoma Administrative  
2       Procedures Act. Upon initiating a formal  
3       investigation, the State Department of Education shall  
4       notify via certified mail and electronic mail the  
5       superintendent of the school district where the  
6       license or certificate holder is employed. In no  
7       event shall the State Board of Education move to  
8       revoke or suspend a license or certificate, emergency  
9       or otherwise, unless the license or certificate holder  
10       and any employing school district received notice via  
11       certified mail and electronic mail within three (3)  
12       days of the date the application was filed with the  
13       State Board of Education, and

14       e.   all funds collected by the State Department of  
15       Education for the issuance of certificates to  
16       instructional, supervisory, and administrative  
17       personnel in the public schools of the state shall be  
18       deposited in the "Teachers' Certification Fund" in the  
19       State Treasury and may be expended by the State Board  
20       of Education to finance the activities of the State  
21       Department of Education necessary to administer the  
22       program, for consultative services, publication costs,  
23       actual and necessary travel expenses as provided in  
24       the State Travel Reimbursement Act incurred by persons



1 performing research work, and other expenses found  
2 necessary by the State Board of Education for the  
3 improvement of the preparation and certification of  
4 teachers in this state. Provided, any unobligated  
5 balance in the Teachers' Certification Fund in excess  
6 of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) on June 30 of any  
7 fiscal year shall be transferred to the General  
8 Revenue Fund of this state. Until July 1, 1997, the  
9 State Board of Education shall have authority for  
10 approval of teacher education programs. The State  
11 Board of Education shall also have authority for the  
12 administration of teacher residency and professional  
13 development, subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma  
14 Teacher Preparation Act;

15 7. Promulgate rules governing the classification, inspection,  
16 supervision, and accrediting of all public nursery, kindergarten,  
17 elementary and secondary schools, and on-site educational services  
18 provided by public school districts or state-accredited private  
19 schools in partial hospitalization programs, day treatment programs,  
20 and day hospital programs as defined in ~~this section~~, Section 3-  
21 104.7 of this title, and Section ~~603.4~~ 175.20 of Title 10 of the  
22 Oklahoma Statutes for persons between the ages of three (3) and  
23 twenty-one (21) years of age in the state. However, no school shall  
24

1 be denied accreditation solely on the basis of average daily  
2 attendance.

3 Any school district which maintains an elementary school and  
4 faces the necessity of relocating its school facilities because of  
5 construction of a lake, either by state or federal authority, which  
6 will inundate the school facilities, shall be entitled to receive  
7 probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a  
8 period of five (5) years after June 12, 1975, and any school  
9 district, otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to receive  
10 probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a  
11 period of two (2) consecutive years to attain the minimum average  
12 daily attendance. The Head Start and public nurseries or  
13 kindergartens operated from community action agency funds shall not  
14 be subjected to the accrediting rules of the State Board of  
15 Education. Neither will the State Board of Education make rules  
16 affecting the operation of the public nurseries and kindergartens  
17 operated from federal funds secured through community action  
18 agencies even though they may be operating in the public schools of  
19 the state. However, any of the Head Start or public nurseries or  
20 kindergartens operated under federal regulations may make  
21 application for accrediting from the State Board of Education but  
22 will be accredited only if application for the approval of the  
23 programs is made. The status of no school district shall be changed  
24 which will reduce it to a lower classification until due notice has

1 been given to the proper authorities thereof and an opportunity  
2 given to correct the conditions which otherwise would be the cause  
3 of such reduction.

4 Private and parochial schools may be accredited and classified  
5 in like manner as public schools or, if an accrediting association  
6 is approved by the State Board of Education, by procedures  
7 established by the State Board of Education to accept accreditation  
8 by such accrediting association, if application is made to the State  
9 Board of Education for such accrediting;

10 8. Be the legal agent of this state to accept, in its  
11 discretion, the provisions of any Act of Congress appropriating or  
12 apportioning funds which are now, or may hereafter be, provided for  
13 use in connection with any phase of the system of public education  
14 in Oklahoma. It shall prescribe such rules as it finds necessary to  
15 provide for the proper distribution of such funds in accordance with  
16 the state and federal laws;

17 9. Be and is specifically hereby designated as the agency of  
18 this state to cooperate and deal with any officer, board, or  
19 authority of the United States Government under any law of the  
20 United States which may require or recommend cooperation with any  
21 state board having charge of the administration of public schools  
22 unless otherwise provided by law;

23 10. Be and is hereby designated as the ~~"State Educational~~  
24 ~~Agency"~~ state educational agency referred to in Public Law 396 of

1 the 79th Congress of the United States, as amended, which ~~law states~~  
2 ~~that the act~~ may be cited known as the "National Richard B. Russell  
3 National School Lunch Act" Act, and the State Board of Education is  
4 hereby authorized and directed to accept the terms and provisions of  
5 the act and to enter into such agreements, not in conflict with the  
6 Constitution of Oklahoma or the Constitution and Statutes of the  
7 United States, as may be necessary or appropriate to secure for this  
8 state the benefits of the school lunch program established and  
9 referred to in the act;

10 11. Have authority to secure and administer the benefits of the  
11 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, Public Law 396 of the  
12 79th Congress of the United States, as amended, in this state and is  
13 hereby authorized to employ or appoint and fix the compensation of  
14 such additional officers or employees and to incur such expenses as  
15 may be necessary for the accomplishment of the above purpose, and  
16 administer the distribution of any state funds appropriated by the  
17 Legislature required as federal matching to reimburse on children's  
18 meals;

19 12. Accept and provide for the administration of any land,  
20 money, buildings, gifts, ~~donation~~ donations, or other things of  
21 value which may be offered or bequeathed to the schools under the  
22 supervision or control of the Board;

23 13. Have authority to require persons having administrative  
24 control of all school districts in Oklahoma to make such regular and

1 special reports regarding the activities of the schools in the  
2 districts as the Board may deem needful for the proper exercise of  
3 its duties and functions. Such authority shall include the right of  
4 the State Board of Education to withhold all state funds under its  
5 control, to withhold official recognition including accrediting,  
6 until such required reports have been filed and accepted in the  
7 office of the Board and to revoke the certificates of persons  
8 failing or refusing to make such reports;

9 14. Have general supervision of the school lunch program. The  
10 State Board of Education may sponsor workshops for personnel and  
11 participants in the school lunch program and may develop, print, and  
12 distribute free of charge or sell any materials, books, and  
13 bulletins to be used in the school lunch programs. There is hereby  
14 created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Board, to be  
15 designated the "School Lunch Workshop Revolving Fund". The fund  
16 shall consist of all fees derived from or on behalf of any  
17 participant in any such workshop sponsored by the State Board of  
18 Education, or from the sale of any materials, books, and bulletins,  
19 and funds shall be disbursed for expenses of such workshops and for  
20 developing, printing, and distributing of the materials, books, and  
21 bulletins relating to the school lunch program. The fund shall be  
22 administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title 62 of the  
23 Oklahoma Statutes;

1        15. Prescribe all forms for school district and county officers  
2 to report to the State Board of Education where required. The State  
3 Board of Education shall also prescribe a list of appropriation  
4 accounts by which the funds of school districts shall be budgeted,  
5 accounted for, and expended; and it shall be the duty of the State  
6 Auditor and Inspector in prescribing all budgeting, accounting, and  
7 reporting forms for school funds to conform to such lists;

8        16. Provide for the establishment of a uniform system of pupil  
9 and personnel accounting, records, and reports;

10       17. Have authority to provide for the health and safety of  
11 school children and school personnel while under the jurisdiction of  
12 school authorities;

13       18. Provide for the supervision of the transportation of  
14 pupils;

15       19. Have authority, upon request of the local school board, to  
16 act in behalf of the public schools of the state in the purchase of  
17 transportation equipment;

18       20. Have authority and is hereby required to perform all duties  
19 necessary to the administration of the public school system in  
20 Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School Code; and, in addition  
21 thereto, those duties not specifically mentioned herein if not  
22 delegated by law to any other agency or official;

23       21. Administer the State Public Common School Building  
24 Equalization Fund established by Section 32 of Article X of the

1 Oklahoma Constitution. Any monies as may be appropriated or  
2 designated by the Legislature, other than ad valorem taxes, any  
3 other funds identified by the State Department of Education, which  
4 may include, but not be limited to, grants-in-aid from the federal  
5 government for building purposes, the proceeds of all property that  
6 shall fall to the state by escheat, penalties for unlawful holding  
7 of real estate by corporations, and capital gains on assets of the  
8 permanent school funds, shall be deposited in the State Public  
9 Common School Building Equalization Fund. The fund shall be used to  
10 aid school districts and charter schools in acquiring buildings,  
11 subject to the limitations fixed by Section 32 of Article X of the  
12 Oklahoma Constitution. It is hereby declared that redbud school  
13 grants disbursed from the State Public Common School Building  
14 Equalization Fund shall be used for the same purposes as a building  
15 fund, as provided for in Section 1-118 of this title. It is hereby  
16 declared that the term "school districts" as used in Section 32 of  
17 Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall mean school districts  
18 and eligible charter schools as defined in subsection B of this  
19 section. The State Board of Education shall disburse redbud school  
20 grants annually from the State Public Common School Building  
21 Equalization Fund to public schools and eligible charter schools  
22 pursuant to subsection B of this section. The Board shall  
23 promulgate rules for the implementation of disbursing redbud school  
24 grants pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education shall

1 prescribe rules for making grants of aid from, and for otherwise  
2 administering, the fund pursuant to the provisions of this  
3 paragraph, and may employ and fix the duties and compensation of  
4 technicians, aides, clerks, stenographers, attorneys, and other  
5 personnel deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
6 paragraph. The cost of administering the fund shall be paid from  
7 monies appropriated to the State Board of Education for the  
8 operation of the State Department of Education. From monies  
9 apportioned to the fund, the State Department of Education may  
10 reserve not more than one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) for  
11 purposes of administering the fund;

12 22. Recognize that the Director of the Department of  
13 Corrections shall be the administrative authority for the schools  
14 which are maintained in the state reformatories and shall appoint  
15 the principals and teachers in such schools. Provided, that rules  
16 of the State Board of Education for the classification, inspection,  
17 and accreditation of public schools shall be applicable to such  
18 schools; and such schools shall comply with standards set by the  
19 State Board of Education; and

20 23. A. Have authority to administer a revolving fund which is  
21 hereby created in the State Treasury, to be designated the  
22 "Statistical Services Revolving Fund". The fund shall consist of  
23 all monies received from the various school districts of the state,  
24 the United States Government, and other sources for the purpose of



1 furnishing or financing statistical services and for any other  
2 purpose as designated by the Legislature. The State Board of  
3 Education is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with school  
4 districts, municipalities, the United States Government,  
5 foundations, and other agencies or individuals for services,  
6 programs, or research projects. The Statistical Services Revolving  
7 Fund shall be administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title  
8 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

9 B. 1. The redbud school grants shall be determined by the  
10 State Department of Education as follows:

- 11 a. divide the county four-mill levy revenue by four to  
12 determine the nonchargeable county four-mill revenue  
13 for each school district,
- 14 b. determine the amount of new revenue generated by the  
15 five-mill building fund levy as authorized by Section  
16 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution for each  
17 school district as reported in the Oklahoma Cost  
18 Accounting System for the preceding fiscal year,
- 19 c. add the amounts calculated in subparagraphs a and b of  
20 this paragraph to determine the nonchargeable millage  
21 for each school district,
- 22 d. add the nonchargeable millage in each district  
23 statewide as calculated in subparagraph c of this  
24 paragraph and divide the total by the average daily

1 membership in public schools statewide based on the  
2 preceding school year's average daily membership,  
3 according to the provisions of Section 18-107 of this  
4 title. This amount is the statewide nonchargeable  
5 millage per student, known as the baseline local  
6 funding per student,

7 e. all eligible charter schools shall be included in  
8 these calculations as unique school districts,  
9 separate from the school district that may sponsor the  
10 eligible charter school, and the total number of  
11 districts shall be used to determine the statewide  
12 average baseline local funding per student,

13 f. for each school district or eligible charter school  
14 which is below the baseline local funding per student,  
15 the Department shall subtract the baseline local  
16 funding per student from the average nonchargeable  
17 millage per student of the school district or eligible  
18 charter school to determine the nonchargeable millage  
19 per student shortfall for each district, and

20 g. the nonchargeable millage per student shortfall for a  
21 school district or eligible charter school shall be  
22 multiplied by the average daily membership of the  
23 preceding school year of the eligible school district  
24 or eligible charter school. This amount shall be the

1           redbud school grant amount for the school district or  
2           eligible charter school.

3       2. For fiscal year 2022, monies for the redbud school grants  
4 shall be expended from the funds apportioned pursuant to Section 426  
5 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. For fiscal year 2023 and each  
6 subsequent fiscal year, monies for the redbud school grants shall be  
7 appropriated pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma  
8 Statutes, not to exceed three-fourths (3/4) of the tax collected in  
9 the preceding fiscal year pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the  
10 Oklahoma Statutes as determined by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. For  
11 fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year, if such  
12 appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the redbud school  
13 grants, then an additional apportionment of funds shall be made from  
14 sales tax collections as provided by subsection D of Section 1353 of  
15 Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If both funds are insufficient,  
16 the Department shall promulgate rules to permit a decrease to the  
17 baseline local funding per student to the highest amount allowed  
18 with the funding available.

19       3. As used in this section, "eligible charter school" shall  
20 mean a charter school which is sponsored pursuant to the provisions  
21 of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Provided, however, eligible  
22 charter school shall not include a statewide virtual charter school  
23 sponsored by the Statewide Charter School Board but shall only  
24 include those which provide in-person or blended instruction, as

provided by Section 1-111 of this title, to not less than two-thirds (2/3) of students as the primary means of instructional service delivery.

4. The Department shall develop a program to acknowledge the redbud school grant recipients and shall include elected members of the House of Representatives and Senate who represent the school districts and eligible charter schools.

5. The Department shall create a dedicated page on its website listing annual redbud school grant recipients, amount awarded to each recipient, and other pertinent information about the Redbud School Funding Act.

6. The Department shall provide the chair of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee and the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee no later than February 1 of each year with an estimate of the upcoming year's redbud school grant allocation as prescribed by this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-104.1. No person shall receive a certificate for an instructional, supervisory, or administrative position in an accredited school of this state who has been convicted of a felony, any crime involving moral turpitude, knowingly and willfully failing to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child in violation of Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, or a felony

1 violation of the narcotic laws of the United States or ~~the State of~~  
2 ~~Oklahoma~~ this state, provided the conviction was entered within the  
3 preceding ten-year period.

4 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 5-142, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 5-142. A. Except as otherwise provided for in  
7 subsection F of this section, for purposes of employment, a board of  
8 education may request in writing to the State Board of Education  
9 that a national criminal history record check be conducted of any  
10 employee of the school and shall request such information for any  
11 person seeking employment with the school; provided, that a board of  
12 education shall not be required to obtain a new criminal history  
13 record check for an individual who has obtained certification from  
14 the State Department of Education within the previous twelve (12)  
15 months. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) shall  
16 obtain fingerprints of the employee or prospective employee and  
17 require that the person pay a search fee not to exceed Fifty Dollars  
18 (\$50.00) or the cost of the search, whichever is the lesser amount.  
19 The fee shall be deposited in the OSBI Revolving Fund. School  
20 districts may reimburse employees for the cost of the search. The  
21 State Board of Education shall contact the ~~Oklahoma State Bureau of~~  
22 ~~Investigation~~ OSBI for any national criminal history record of the  
23 person within fourteen (14) working days of receiving a written  
24 request from the board of education.

1 B. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall provide the  
2 national criminal history record check requested by the State Board  
3 of Education within fourteen (14) working days from the receipt of  
4 the request. The Bureau may contact the Federal Bureau of  
5 Investigation to obtain the information requested.

6 C. The State Board of Education shall provide the information  
7 received from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to the  
8 board of education within fourteen (14) days from the receipt of the  
9 information. The State Board of Education shall provide any follow-  
10 up information received from the OSBI concerning a person for ~~which~~  
11 whom a national criminal history record check was requested to the  
12 employing board of education.

13 D. For the purpose of this section:

14 1. "Board of education" includes both public and private boards  
15 of education within or outside this state;

16 2. "Employing agency" means a political subdivision or law  
17 enforcement agency in this state;

18 3. "Law enforcement officer" means a peace or police officer  
19 who is certified by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and  
20 Training;

21 4. "National criminal history record check" means a national  
22 criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title  
23 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and  
24

1        5. "Prospective employee" means an individual who has received  
2 an offer of temporary employment from a school district pending the  
3 results of the national criminal history record check.

4        E. Each public board of education within this state shall  
5 promulgate a statement regarding the felony record search policy for  
6 that school district. The policy may permit temporary employment of  
7 prospective employees for a maximum of sixty (60) days pending  
8 receipt of results of national criminal history record check  
9 requests. The temporary employment of the prospective employee  
10 shall terminate after sixty (60) days unless the school district  
11 receives the results of the national criminal history record check.  
12 The sixty-day temporary employment period shall begin on the first  
13 day the prospective employee reports for duty at the employing  
14 school district. Prospective employees shall be notified of the  
15 requirement, the fee, and the reimbursement policy when first  
16 interviewed concerning employment. The school district's  
17 reimbursement policy shall provide, at a minimum, that employees  
18 shall be promptly reimbursed in full for the fee if employed by the  
19 district at the time the national criminal history record check  
20 request is made unless the person was employed pending receipt of  
21 results ~~as set forth above~~.

22        F. 1. Any person who has been employed as a full-time teacher  
23 by a school district in this state and applies for employment as a  
24 full-time teacher in ~~another~~ a school district in this state may not

1 be required to have a national criminal history record check if the  
2 teacher produces a copy of a national criminal history record check  
3 completed within the preceding five (5) years and a letter from the  
4 school district in which the teacher was employed stating the  
5 teacher left in good standing and whether the teacher was the  
6 subject of any allegation of inappropriate behavior with a student.

7       2. For any person applying for employment as a substitute  
8 teacher, a national criminal history record check shall be required  
9 for the school year; provided, however, a board of education may  
10 choose whether to require a national criminal history record check  
11 from a prospective substitute teacher who has been employed by the  
12 school district in the last year. Any person applying for  
13 employment as a substitute teacher in more than one school district  
14 shall only be required to have one national criminal history record  
15 check, and, upon the request of the substitute teacher, that record  
16 check shall be sent to all other school districts in which the  
17 substitute teacher is applying to teach.

18       3. Any person employed as a full-time teacher by a school  
19 district in this state in the five (5) years immediately preceding  
20 an application for employment as a substitute teacher may not be  
21 required to have a national criminal history record check, if the  
22 teacher produces a copy of a national criminal history record check  
23 completed within the preceding five (5) years and a letter from the  
24 school district in which the teacher was last employed stating the



1 teacher left in good standing and whether the teacher was the  
2 subject of any allegation of inappropriate behavior with a student.

3 4. Any person employed as a substitute teacher by a school  
4 district in this state for a minimum of five (5) years immediately  
5 preceding an application for employment as a full-time teacher in a  
6 school district in this state may not be required to have a national  
7 criminal history record check if the teacher produces a copy of a  
8 national criminal history record check completed within the  
9 preceding five (5) years and a letter from the school district in  
10 which the teacher was employed as a substitute teacher stating the  
11 teacher left in good standing and whether the teacher was the  
12 subject of any allegation of inappropriate behavior with a student.

13 5. Any person employed as a full-time teacher by a school  
14 district in this state for ten (10) or more consecutive years  
15 immediately preceding an application for employment as a substitute  
16 teacher in the same school district may not be required to have a  
17 national criminal history record check for as long as the person  
18 remains employed for consecutive years by that school district as a  
19 substitute teacher, if the teacher left full-time employment in good  
20 standing. If the teacher applies for employment as a substitute  
21 teacher in another school district, a national criminal history  
22 record check shall be required.

23 G. 1. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, any  
24 teacher employed by an Oklahoma school district prior to ~~the~~

1 ~~effective date of this act~~ May 19, 2020, who does not have an  
2 Oklahoma criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State  
3 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history  
4 record check, as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the  
5 Oklahoma Statutes, on file with his or her employing district as  
6 required by this section shall complete the criminal history record  
7 checks upon the next renewal of his or her ~~Standard Teaching~~  
8 ~~Certificate~~ standard teaching certificate as required by Section 6-  
9 154.1 of this title or State Board of Education administrative rules  
10 promulgated thereto.

11       2. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, any other  
12 person employed by an Oklahoma school district prior to ~~the~~  
13 ~~effective date of this act~~ May 19, 2020, who does not have an  
14 Oklahoma criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State  
15 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history  
16 record check, as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the  
17 Oklahoma Statutes, on file with his or her employing district as  
18 required by this section shall have until July 1, 2022, to complete  
19 the criminal history record checks.

20       3. Any teacher eligible to retire from the Teachers' Retirement  
21 System of Oklahoma who does not have an Oklahoma criminal history  
22 record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well  
23 as a national criminal history record check, as defined in Section  
24 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, on file with his or her

1 employing district as required by this section shall complete the  
2 criminal history record checks by the earlier of the following  
3 dates:

4 a. July 1, 2022, or

5 b. at the next renewal of his or her ~~Standard Teaching~~  
6 ~~Certificate~~ standard teaching certificate as required  
7 by Section 6-154.1 of this title or State Board of  
8 Education administrative rules promulgated thereto.

9 H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to technology  
10 center employees hired on a part-time or temporary basis for the  
11 instruction of adult students only.

12 I. The provisions of this section shall not apply to law  
13 enforcement officers who are employed by an employing agency at the  
14 time of application for employment at a public school district.

15 J. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose  
16 liability on school districts, except in negligence, for employing  
17 prospective employees within the sixty-day temporary employment  
18 window pending the results of the national criminal history record  
19 check.

20 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.22, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 6-101.22. A. Subject to the provisions of the Teacher  
23 Due Process Act of 1990, a career teacher may be dismissed or not  
24 reemployed for:

1. Willful neglect of duty;
2. Repeated negligence in performance of duty;
3. Mental or physical abuse to a child;
4. Knowing and willful failure to report suspected child abuse  
5 or neglect;
- 6 5. Incompetency;
- 7 ~~5.~~ 6. Instructional ineffectiveness;
- 8 ~~6.~~ 7. Unsatisfactory teaching performance;
- 9 ~~7.~~ 8. Commission of an act of moral turpitude; or
- 10 ~~8.~~ 9. Abandonment of contract.

11 B. Subject to the provisions of the Teacher Due Process Act of  
12 1990, a probationary teacher may be dismissed or not reemployed for  
13 cause.

14 C. During the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter:

15 1. A career teacher who has received a district evaluation  
16 rating of "ineffective" as measured pursuant to the Oklahoma Teacher  
17 and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) for two (2)  
18 consecutive school years shall be dismissed or not reemployed on the  
19 grounds of instructional ineffectiveness by the school district,  
20 subject to the provisions of the Teacher Due Process Act of 1990.  
21 However, the superintendent may recommend and the school district  
22 board of education may approve continued employment of the teacher;  
23 and

1        2. A career teacher who has received a district evaluation  
2 rating of "needs improvement" or lower as measured pursuant to the  
3 TLE for three (3) consecutive school years may be dismissed or not  
4 reemployed on the grounds of instructional ineffectiveness by the  
5 school district, subject to the provisions of the Teacher Due  
6 Process Act of 1990.

7        D. During the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter:

8        1. A probationary teacher who has received a district  
9 evaluation rating of "ineffective" as measured pursuant to the TLE  
10 for two (2) consecutive school years may be dismissed or not  
11 reemployed by the school district subject to the provisions of the  
12 Teacher Due Process Act of 1990; and

13        2. A probationary teacher who has not attained career teacher  
14 status within a four-year period may be dismissed or not reemployed  
15 by the school district, subject to the provisions of the Teacher Due  
16 Process Act of 1990.

17        E. A teacher shall be dismissed or not reemployed, unless a  
18 presidential or gubernatorial pardon has been issued, if during the  
19 term of employment the teacher is convicted in this state, the  
20 United States, or another state of:

21        1. Any sex offense subject to the Sex Offenders Registration  
22 Act in this state or subject to another state's or the federal sex  
23 offender registration provisions; ~~or~~

1        2. Knowingly and willfully failing to report suspected abuse or  
2 neglect of a child in violation of Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of  
3 the Oklahoma Statutes; or

4        3. Any felony offense.

5        F. A teacher may be dismissed, refused employment, or not  
6 reemployed after a finding that such person has engaged in acts that  
7 could form the basis of criminal charges sufficient to result in the  
8 denial or revocation of a certificate for a reason set forth in  
9 subparagraph a or b of paragraph 6 of Section 3-104 of this title.

10       G. As used in this section, "abandonment of contract" means the  
11 failure of a teacher to report at the beginning of the contract term  
12 or otherwise perform the duties of a contract of employment when the  
13 teacher has accepted other employment or is performing work for  
14 another employer that prevents the teacher from fulfilling the  
15 obligations of the contract of employment.

16       H. A school district shall notify the State Board of Education  
17 within ten (10) days of the dismissal or nonreemployment of a  
18 probationary or career teacher for reasons outlined in subsection F  
19 of this section.

20       SECTION 5.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as  
21 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp.  
22 2024, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

23       Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this  
24 state shall establish professional development programs for the

1 certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs  
2 shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a  
3 professional development committee appointed by the board of  
4 education for the district.

5 B. Each professional development committee shall include  
6 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed  
7 mental health providers, and parents, guardians, or custodians of  
8 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher  
9 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional  
10 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The  
11 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of  
12 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers  
13 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to  
14 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

15 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional  
16 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach  
17 to analyze student data and determine district and school  
18 professional development needs. The professional development  
19 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of  
20 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum  
21 areas for the following goals:

22 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the  
23 district and each school site;

24 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

1        3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-  
2 mandated tests and the ACT;

3        4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

4        5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

5        Each program may also include components on classroom management  
6 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians,  
7 or custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic  
8 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116  
9 of this title shall be required to complete at a frequency as  
10 determined by the board of education. The State Board of Education  
11 shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing  
12 and implementing racial and ethnic education components into  
13 professional development programs.

14        D. A program which includes the following information shall be  
15 completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school  
16 district, and then once every fifth academic year:

17        1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;

18        2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;

19        3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse including the reporting  
20 requirements of Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma  
21 Statutes and Section 1210.163 of this title and associated penalties  
22 for failure to report; and

23        4. Available resources.



1 E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year,  
2 training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident  
3 teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three  
4 shall be required to complete the autism training during the  
5 resident year and at least one time every three (3) years  
6 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals  
7 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be  
8 required to complete the autism training at least one time every  
9 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum  
10 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources  
11 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to  
12 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school  
13 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or  
14 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically  
15 designed for school counselors.

16 Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional  
17 development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited  
18 to, professional development provided by the district, any state  
19 agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

20 F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a  
21 dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. Beginning in the 2023-  
22 2024 school year, the program shall include information and training  
23 in dysgraphia. At a minimum, the program shall include:  
24

1        1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in  
2 students;

3        2. Training in effective classroom instruction to meet the  
4 needs of students with dyslexia; and

5        3. Available dyslexia resources for teachers, students and  
6 parents.

7        G. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each  
8 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district  
9 board of education to meet the professional development requirements  
10 established by the board, or established through the negotiation  
11 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the  
12 professional development requirements established by each board of  
13 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum  
14 number of the total number of points required to maintain  
15 employment; provided, no more than a total of one hundred fifty  
16 (150) hours of local, state, or federal professional development or  
17 training shall be required for classroom teachers during any five-  
18 year period. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of  
19 education professional development requirements may be grounds for  
20 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure  
21 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments  
22 affecting the teacher. Teachers shall maintain written  
23 documentation of all their completed professional development.

1       H. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State  
2 Department of Education on the district level professional  
3 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results  
4 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection  
5 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and  
6 offer a professional development program as provided for in  
7 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to  
8 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but  
9 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not  
10 to offer a program and all professional development activities  
11 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

12       I. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall  
13 develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection H  
14 of this section. The Department shall also make such information  
15 available on its website.

16       SECTION 6.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.163, as  
17 amended by Section 46, Chapter 59, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024,  
18 Section 1210.163), is amended to read as follows:

19       Section 1210.163. A. Every school employee having reason to  
20 believe that a student under the age of eighteen (18) years is a  
21 victim of abuse or neglect shall report the matter immediately to  
22 the Department of Human Services and local law enforcement. Reports  
23 to the Department shall be made to the hotline provided for in  
24 Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes. Any

1 allegation of abuse or neglect reported in any manner to a county  
2 office shall immediately be referred to the hotline by the  
3 Department.

4 B. Every school employee having reason to believe that a  
5 student age eighteen (18) years or older is a victim of abuse or  
6 neglect shall report the matter immediately to local law  
7 enforcement.

8 C. In reports required by subsection A or B of this section,  
9 local law enforcement shall keep confidential and redact any  
10 information identifying the reporting school employee unless  
11 otherwise ordered by the court. A school employee with knowledge of  
12 a report required by subsection A or B of this section shall not  
13 disclose information identifying the reporting school employee  
14 unless otherwise ordered by the court or as part of an investigation  
15 by local law enforcement or the Department.

16 D. Every school employee shall annually sign an attestation  
17 acknowledging his or her responsibility to report suspected child  
18 abuse or neglect pursuant to this section and Section 1-2-101 of  
19 Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

20 E. For the purposes of this section, "child abuse and neglect"  
21 shall include, but not be limited to:

22 1. Child abuse as defined in Section 843.5 of Title 21 of the  
23 Oklahoma Statutes;

24

- 1        2. Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation as defined in Section 1-  
2 1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 3        3. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor, as defined  
4 described in Section 856 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 5        4. Trafficking in children, as defined in Section 866 of Title  
6 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 7        5. Incest, as described in Section 885 of Title 21 of the  
8 Oklahoma Statutes;
- 9        6. Forcible sodomy, as described in Section 888 of Title 21 of  
10 the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 11       7. Maliciously, forcibly or fraudulently taking or enticing a  
12 child away, as described in Section 891 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma  
13 Statutes;
- 14       8. Soliciting or aiding a minor child to perform or showing,  
15 exhibiting, loaning or distributing obscene material or child sexual  
16 abuse material, as described in Section 1021 of Title 21 of the  
17 Oklahoma Statutes;
- 18       9. Procuring or causing the participation of any minor child in  
19 any child sexual abuse material or knowingly possessing, procuring  
20 or manufacturing child sexual abuse material, as described in  
21 Section 1021.2 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 22       10. Permitting or consenting to the participation of a minor  
23 child in any child sexual abuse material, as described in Section  
24 1021.3 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

1 11. Facilitating, encouraging, offering or soliciting sexual  
2 conduct with a minor, as described in Section 1040.13a of Title 21  
3 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

4 12. Offering or offering to secure a minor child for the  
5 purposes of prostitution or any other lewd or indecent act, as  
6 described in Section 1087 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

7 13. Causing, inducing, persuading or encouraging a minor child  
8 to engage or continue to engage in prostitution, as described in  
9 Section 1088 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

10 14. Rape or rape by instrumentation, as described in Sections  
11 1111.1 and 1114 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

12 15. Making any oral, written or electronically or computer-  
13 generated lewd or indecent proposals to a minor child under the age  
14 of sixteen (16) as described in Section 1123 of Title 21 of the  
15 Oklahoma Statutes.

16 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

21  
22 60-1-13551 AQH 04/16/25  
23  
24