

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

POLICY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2125

By: Staires

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 162, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-122.3), which relates to adjunct teachers; clarifying instructional levels of adjunct teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.7, which relates to early childhood education programs; authorizing adjunct teachers; 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 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 162, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.3. A. The State Board of Education shall grant an alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes application to the Board and meets the following criteria:

1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has

1 attained a retention grade point average of not less
2 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

3 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
4 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
5 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree
6 or a master of library science degree, from an
7 institution accredited by a national or regional
8 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
9 Secretary of the United States Department of
10 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
11 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
12 degrees, or

13 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
14 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
15 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
16 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
17 to an area of certification as determined by the State
18 Board of Education, and

19 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b
20 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency
21 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an
22 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
23 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
24 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-

1 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
2 Department of Career and Technology Education;

3 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by
4 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)
5 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject
6 matter and the number of clock or semester hours required for the
7 professional education component for each person making application
8 for an alternative placement teaching certificate based on the
9 criteria of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

10 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of
11 six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours and a maximum of
12 eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock
13 hours for the professional education component.

14 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
15 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
16 subsection E of this section;

17 3. Has passed the subject area portion of the competency
18 examination required in Section 6-187 of this title in the area of
19 specialization for which certification is sought; and

20 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
21 district in this state offering employment in the area of
22 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
23 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
24 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek

1 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
2 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
3 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
4 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
5 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes
6 of Section 6-195 of this title.

7 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
8 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
9 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district
10 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
11 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
12 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
13 placement program.

14 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

15 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
16 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
17 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
18 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
19 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed
20 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
21 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

22 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an
23 Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard
24 certification requirements within three (3) years; and

1 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
2 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
3 other inductees.

4 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
5 requirements for certification and, upon demonstration by an
6 individual of specific competency in the subject area of
7 specialization, may grant a certificate to the individual. The
8 State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant
9 exceptions.

10 E. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
11 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an
12 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination
13 for initial certification in a field which does not require an
14 advanced degree pursuant to this section if the candidate has an
15 advanced degree in a subject that is substantially comparable to the
16 content assessed on a subject area examination. The degree shall be
17 from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting
18 agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department
19 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the
20 necessary information to determine comparability.

21 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
22 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
23 for standard certification.

1 G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
2 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
3 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall be authorized
4 to teach at all grade levels including in early childhood education
5 programs. Adjunct teachers shall not be required to meet standard
6 certification. A person employed as an adjunct teacher pursuant to
7 this subsection who does not hold a valid certificate to teach shall
8 not be considered a teacher as defined by Section 1-116 of this
9 title.

10 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
11 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
12 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
13 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

14 I. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
15 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any
16 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in
17 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
18 in at least four areas of specialization including mathematics,
19 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
20 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
21 section to be:

22 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
23 qualification; and
24

1 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
2 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
3 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
4 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any
5 person seeking standard certification through an alternative
6 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
7 during regular semesters if offered.

8 J. The criteria specified in subsection I of this section can
9 be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more
10 institutions of higher education.

11 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.7, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 11-103.7. A. Each school district may offer to four-
14 year-old children the opportunity to participate in an early
15 childhood education program.

16 B. The State Board of Education shall promulgate standards for
17 early childhood education programs for children who are at least
18 four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the ensuing school
19 year. The standards shall include both half-day programs consisting
20 of not less than two and one-half (2 1/2) hours per school day, and
21 full-day programs of six (6) hours. The standards for all early
22 childhood education programs shall require a certified teacher, as
23 specified in this section, or an adjunct teacher as authorized by
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1 subsection G of Section 6-122.3 of this title to be present in the
2 classroom for the length of the school day. Such program shall:

3 1. Be directed toward developmentally appropriate objectives
4 for such children, rather than toward academic objectives suitable
5 for older children;

6 2. Accommodate the needs of all children and families
7 regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and

8 3. Require that any teacher employed by a public school to
9 teach in such early childhood education program shall be certified
10 in early childhood education.

11 C. The superintendent of any school district providing
12 classroom space or other school facilities for a federally sponsored
13 Head Start program that is planning to make a material change in the
14 arrangement, shall give notice to the director of the Head Start
15 program at least seven (7) days prior to a school board hearing on
16 the matter.

17 D. A school district may offer such early childhood education
18 program within the district, in cooperation with other districts,
19 through the use of transfers as specified by law, or by contracting
20 with a private or public provider of early childhood education
21 programs, or by contracting for classroom space with a licensed
22 public or private child care provider based upon selection criteria
23 established by the district. If the program is provided through
24 contract with a private or public provider other than a school

1 district, the contract may only be continued if each teacher serving
2 the school on and after January 1, 1993, is certified in early
3 childhood education, except that all teachers, without such
4 certification, hired by such provider prior to January 1, 1993, and
5 serving in the school as an early childhood education teacher shall
6 be required to obtain certification on or before the beginning of
7 the 1996-97 school year. Any person who has been employed as an
8 early childhood educator with the Head Start ~~Program~~ program, has a
9 child development associate degree (CDA) and has at least five (5)
10 years of experience in such employment shall be certified in early
11 childhood education for purposes of employment in the public schools
12 of this state to teach in early childhood education for children
13 four (4) years of age and younger; if such person is recertified in
14 child development by the Council for Early Childhood Professional
15 Recognition within five (5) years prior to the expiration of the
16 person's early childhood certificate that was issued by the State
17 Board of Education, such person shall be granted a renewal
18 certificate in early childhood education by the State Board of
19 Education upon expiration of the early childhood certificate.
20 Provided, private or public providers shall meet such other
21 standards required by law and by the State Board of Education.

22 E. If an early childhood education program is provided by a
23 private or public provider pursuant to a contract as authorized in
24 this section, the contract shall address the requirements for

1 implementing the induction program as required in Section 6-195 of
2 this title. Teachers employed by a private or public provider in an
3 early childhood education program provided through contract with a
4 public school district shall receive in salary and/or fringe
5 benefits amounts not less than the amounts specified in the schedule
6 set forth in Section ~~18-114.14~~ 18-114.15 of this title.

7 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
8 provide for the implementation of such program.

9 G. An early childhood education program may be offered jointly
10 by school districts that have formed interlocal cooperative
11 agreements pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title.

12 H. The term "prekindergarten" shall mean early childhood
13 education for purposes of this title.

14 I. The State Board of Education shall ensure that the standards
15 for early childhood education are aligned with any new subject
16 matter standards adopted pursuant to Section 11-103.6a of this
17 title.

18 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

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