

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR
5 HOUSE BILL NO. 3076

By: Lepak

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8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
10 Section 6-133, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 349,
11 O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-133),
12 which relates to new and innovative pathways toward
13 teacher certification; expanding definition of
14 provider; clarifying definition of program; replacing
15 State Board of Education with Commission for
16 Educational Quality and Accountability; striking
17 pilot program language; requiring the Commission to
18 initiate a request for information from potential
19 providers; providing a timeline for the approval or
20 denial of applications; requiring the Commission to
21 provide notice for a denial and an opportunity to
22 remedy deficiencies; directing the Commission to
23 develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness
24 program; requiring the Commission to promulgate
rules; 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. 2025, Section 6-122.3), which relates
to alternative placement teaching certificates;
adding alternative teacher preparation programs to
eligibility requirements; providing an effective
date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, as
2 amended by Section 1, Chapter 349, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,
3 Section 6-133), is amended to read as follows:

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

5 1. "Provider" means an eligible school district, regional
6 education service agency, institution of higher education, or other
7 private or not-for-profit entity which is, or will be within three
8 (3) years of being approved by the Commission for Educational
9 Quality and Accountability, accredited by the Council for the
10 Accreditation of Educator Preparation or the Association for
11 Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation that seeks or has obtained
12 approval of an alternative teacher preparation program consistent
13 with this section; and

14 2. "Program" means an alternative teacher preparation program
15 with content provided by a provider that leads toward teacher
16 certification or licensure in a specific content area.

17 B. 1. The State Board of Education Commission for Educational
18 Quality and Accountability shall identify providers to implement new
19 and innovative pathways toward teacher certification on a pilot
20 program basis through alternative teacher preparation programs. The
21 Commission shall initiate a request for information from potential
22 providers and shall provide eligible providers with information
23 concerning the application process. Providers seeking to
24 participate ~~in the pilot program~~ shall submit applications to the

1 ~~State Board of Education~~ Commission. The Commission shall approve
2 or deny an application within sixty (60) days of submission. If the
3 Commission denies an application, the Commission shall provide
4 notice with the reasons for the denial and permit the provider an
5 opportunity to remedy the deficiencies.

6 2. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
7 shall develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to
8 be utilized in making potential teachers aware of approved providers
9 and their programs. The State Board of Education shall post on its
10 Internet website a list of approved providers, program requirements,
11 and the cost of each program.

12 C. A provider ~~chosen~~ approved by the ~~State Board of Education~~
13 ~~to participate in the pilot program~~ Commission for Educational
14 Quality and Accountability shall offer a program that:

15 1. Provides evidence and history of fiscal solvency, capacity,
16 operation, and program effectiveness;

17 2. Provides evidence of necessary infrastructure to provide
18 accurate, timely, and secure data for the purpose of admission,
19 teacher candidate monitoring, testing, and certification
20 recommendations;

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

23 4. Has the instructional capacity within an existing novice
24 teacher support program, the ability to obtain the instructional

1 capacity, or has established a partnership with an accredited
2 institution of higher education ~~institution~~ to provide adequate
3 instruction in accordance with this subsection;

4 5. Offers an instructional phase that provides intensive
5 preparation before the teacher candidates assume classroom
6 responsibilities;

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

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

13 8. Provides intensive and ongoing professional development
14 opportunities that accelerate a teacher candidate's professional
15 growth, support student learning, and provide a workplace
16 orientation, professional staff development, and mentoring;

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

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

23 D. ~~The State Board of Education~~ Commission for Educational
24 Quality and Accountability shall ensure that providers ~~approved to~~

1 ~~participate in the pilot program~~ allow teacher candidates to
2 demonstrate pedagogy and content standard proficiency in school-
3 based programs and through other nontraditional means.
4 Nontraditional means may include, but not be limited to, previous
5 work experience, teacher experience, educator evaluations, industry-
6 recognized certifications, and other essentially equivalent
7 demonstrations.

8 E. If the ~~State Board of Education~~ Commission determines that a
9 provider fails to meet or is deficient in any of the requirements of
10 this section including failing to become accredited by the Council
11 for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation or the Association for
12 Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation within three (3) years of
13 the date of approval by the Commission, ~~it~~ the Commission may
14 suspend or revoke the approval of the provider after providing
15 notification of the deficiencies and an opportunity to remedy the
16 deficiencies within a specified period of time as determined by the
17 Commission.

18 F. A teacher candidate that completes a program offered by an
19 approved provider shall be eligible for certification, provided he
20 or she meets the certification requirements set forth in Section 6-
21 187 of this title in the area of specialization for which
22 certification is sought and is recommended for certification by the
23 approved provider.

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1 G. The State Board of Education shall issue a certificate to
2 teach to any person who meets the requirements set forth in this
3 section and who has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
4 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
5 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
6 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The
7 person applying for the certificate shall be responsible for the
8 cost of the criminal history record checks.

9 H. A provider shall submit a report to the ~~State Department of~~
10 ~~Education~~ Office of Educational Quality and Accountability after one
11 (1) year of operation showing the percentage of teacher candidates
12 who have completed the program and who have successfully completed
13 or who have failed the competency examinations for certification and
14 the provider's efforts to help candidates successfully pass the
15 examinations. A provider shall annually submit a report to the
16 ~~State Department of Education~~ Office of Educational Quality and
17 Accountability outlining the success of the program.

18 I. The ~~State Board of Education~~ may Commission for Educational
19 Quality and Accountability shall promulgate rules to implement the
20 provisions of this section.

21 ~~J. The pilot program created in this section shall end no later~~
22 ~~than July 1, 2026.~~

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1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, as
2 last amended by Section 162, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.
3 2025, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

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

- 7 1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
8 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
9 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
10 attained a retention grade point average of not less
11 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or
- 12 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
13 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
14 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree
15 or a master of library science degree, from an
16 institution accredited by a national or regional
17 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
18 Secretary of the United States Department of
19 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
20 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
21 degrees, or
- 22 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
23 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
24 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has

1 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
2 to an area of certification as determined by the State
3 Board of Education, and

4 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b
5 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency
6 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an
7 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
8 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
9 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-
10 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
11 Department of Career and Technology Education;

12 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by
13 means of an alternative placement program or an alternative teacher
14 preparation program provided for in Section 6-133 of this title in
15 not more than three (3) years. The State Board of Education shall
16 determine the subject matter and the number of clock or semester
17 hours required for the professional education component for each
18 person making application for an alternative placement teaching
19 certificate based on the criteria of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

20 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of
21 six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours and a maximum of
22 eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock
23 hours for the professional education component.
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1 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
2 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
3 subsection E of this section;

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

7 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
8 district in this state offering employment in the area of
9 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
10 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
11 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
12 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
13 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
14 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
15 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
16 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes
17 of Section 6-195 of this title.

18 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
19 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
20 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district
21 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
22 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
23 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
24 placement program.

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

2 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
3 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
4 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
5 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
6 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed
7 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
8 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

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

12 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
13 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
14 other inductees.

15 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
16 requirements for certification and, upon demonstration by an
17 individual of specific competency in the subject area of
18 specialization, may grant a certificate to the individual. The
19 State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant
20 exceptions.

21 E. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
22 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an
23 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination
24 for initial certification in a field which does not require an

1 advanced degree pursuant to this section if the candidate has an
2 advanced degree in a subject that is substantially comparable to the
3 content assessed on a subject area examination. The degree shall be
4 from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting
5 agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department
6 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the
7 necessary information to determine comparability.

8 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
9 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
10 for standard certification.

11 G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
12 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
13 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
14 required to meet standard certification. A person employed as an
15 adjunct teacher pursuant to this subsection who does not hold a
16 valid certificate to teach shall not be considered a teacher as
17 defined by Section 1-116 of this title.

18 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
19 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
20 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
21 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

22 I. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
23 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any
24 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in

1 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
2 in at least four areas of specialization including mathematics,
3 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
4 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
5 section to be:

6 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
7 qualification; and

8 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
9 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
10 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
11 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any
12 person seeking standard certification through an alternative
13 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
14 during regular semesters if offered.

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

18 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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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