

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED

SENATE BILL NO. 245

By: Deever of the Senate

and

Hasenbeck of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

[State Department of Education - High Dosage

Tutoring Program - eligibility - promulgation of

rules - revolving fund - codification - effective

date -

emergency]

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-180 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Department of Education shall establish and
maintain the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring Program for grades
kindergarten through eight.

1 B. For the purposes of this section:

2 1. "Cohort" means a student or group of students of no more
3 than five who receive subject-specific high dosage tutoring in
4 mathematics or English language arts (ELA) and are at least one-half
5 grade level behind in mathematics or ELA prior to participating in
6 the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring Program; and

7 2. "High dosage tutoring" means in-person, subject-specific
8 tutoring conducted by an individual employed by or contracted with a
9 school district participating in the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring
10 Program after school hours for a minimum of three one-hour sessions
11 per week per cohort. Tutoring shall be conducted during a minimum
12 of ten (10) weeks in the fall semester and a minimum of twelve (12)
13 weeks in the spring semester.

14 C. 1. Participating school districts shall assess kindergarten
15 through third grade students participating in high dosage ELA
16 tutoring using the screening instrument required by Section
17 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes to track ELA academic
18 growth. Fourth- through eighth-grade students participating in high
19 dosage ELA tutoring shall be assessed using an assessment chosen by
20 the district to determine academic readiness for the next grade
21 level.

22 2. Participating school districts shall assess students
23 participating in high dosage mathematics tutoring using an
24

1 assessment chosen by the district to determine academic readiness
2 for the next grade level.

3 3. Results of screening instruments and assessments
4 administered pursuant to this subsection shall be electronically
5 reported to the State Department of Education three times a year at
6 intervals determined by the Department.

7 D. The State Department of Education shall give priority for
8 participation in the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring Program to school
9 districts federally designated for additional targeted support and
10 improvement or comprehensive support and improvement under the
11 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as reauthorized by
12 P.L. No. 114-95, also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act.
13 Participation in the program shall be approved on a first-come,
14 first-served basis without any limitation other than the amount of
15 funds available for the program and the number of school districts
16 that apply.

17 E. High dosage tutors employed by or contracted with public
18 school districts participating in the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring
19 Program shall be awarded bonuses in the following amounts:

20 1. One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$1,600.00) for each cohort
21 educated by a high dosage tutor per semester; and

22 2. One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each academic grade
23 level increase in ELA or mathematics that each student within a
24 cohort experiences within one (1) academic year.

1 F. 1. If the students in a high dosage tutor's cohort do not
2 improve by at least half a grade level in their tutored subject
3 within the first year of the program, the tutor shall be placed on a
4 conditional one-year term of participation.

5 2. If the students in a high dosage tutor's cohort fail to
6 achieve half a grade level of growth during the one-year conditional
7 term of participation, the tutor shall lose eligibility to
8 participate in the program. A tutor who loses eligibility pursuant
9 to this paragraph may be reconsidered as a high dosage tutor after
10 two (2) years.

11 3. If the students in a high dosage tutor's cohort achieve half
12 a grade level of growth during the one-year conditional term of
13 participation, the tutor's conditional status shall be lifted.

14 G. High dosage tutors shall be provided the necessary
15 information for each student's subject-specific academic performance
16 level, as determined by the student's current teacher of the tutored
17 subject.

18 H. 1. School districts participating in the Oklahoma High
19 Dosage Tutoring Program shall obtain written consent from a
20 student's parent or legal guardian prior to allowing the student to
21 participate in high dosage tutoring.

22 2. If a student participating in high dosage tutoring fails to
23 attend a tutoring session, the tutor shall notify the student's
24

1 school district, and the school district shall notify the student's
2 parent or legal guardian.

3 3. If the parent or legal guardian of a student participating
4 in high dosage tutoring no longer wishes for the student to
5 participate, a student fails to attend nine (9) high dosage tutoring
6 sessions during a semester, or a student's behavior during tutoring
7 sessions requires disciplinary action, the student may be removed
8 from the cohort. The performance of a student subject to the
9 provisions of this paragraph shall not count against the high dosage
10 tutor.

11 I. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
12 implement the provisions of this section.

13 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-180.1 of Title 70, unless
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
17 for the State Department of Education to be designated the "High
18 Dosage Tutoring Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing
19 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of
20 all monies received by the State Department of Education from gifts,
21 grants, donations, bequests, federal funds provided for the purpose
22 of funding high dosage tutoring, or state appropriations provided
23 for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Section 1 of this
24 act. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby

1 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State
2 Department of Education for the purpose provided for in this
3 section. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants
4 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
5 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
6 Services for approval and payment.

7 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-190, as
8 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 122, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.
9 2024, Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school
11 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in
12 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified to teach by
13 the State Board of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher
14 Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for by Section 6-101
15 of this title and by other law.

16 B. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
17 who:

18 1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program
19 required by the Commission for Educational Quality and
20 Accountability;

21 2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher
22 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

23 3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the
24 Board;

1 4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency
2 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

3 5. Has successfully completed the competency examination
4 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

5 6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a
6 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State
7 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history
8 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
9 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the
10 Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective
11 until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history
12 record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible
13 for the cost of the criminal history records.

14 C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
15 who:

16 1. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets the requirements
17 set forth in subsection G of this section;

18 2. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional
19 Teaching Standards;

20 3. Holds an out-of-country certificate and meets the
21 requirements set forth in subsection F of this section; or

22 4. Has successfully completed a competency examination used in
23 the majority of other states or comparable customized exam and meets
24 the requirements set forth in subsection H of this section.

1 D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial
2 Oklahoma certification shall have on file with the Board a current
3 Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
4 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
5 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
6 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue
7 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of
8 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person
9 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the
10 criminal history records.

11 E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to
12 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the
13 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional
14 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher
15 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

16 F. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
17 who holds a valid out-of-country certificate and meets any
18 requirements established by the Board. The certificate to teach
19 shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most closely
20 aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-
21 of-country certificate.

22 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
23 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations
24 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the

1 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-country
2 certificate.

3 3. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
4 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
5 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
6 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
7 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
8 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may
9 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt
10 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.
11 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the
12 cost of the criminal history record checks.

13 4. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing a process by
14 which out-of-country certificates will be reviewed and evaluated for
15 purposes of awarding a certificate to teach pursuant to this
16 subsection.

17 G. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
18 who holds a valid out-of-state certificate. The certificate to
19 teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most
20 closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on
21 the out-of-state certificate.

22 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
23 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations
24 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the

1 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state
2 certificate.

3 3. A person who meets the requirements of this subsection shall
4 have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history
5 record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well
6 as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section
7 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the
8 Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may issue a
9 temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the
10 national fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The
11 person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost
12 of the criminal history record checks.

13 H. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
14 who has successfully completed a competency exam used in a majority
15 of the other states. The certificate to teach shall only be for
16 those subject areas and grade levels that correspond with a
17 certification area used in Oklahoma.

18 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
19 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
20 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
21 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
22 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
23 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may
24 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt

1 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.

2 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the
3 cost of the criminal history record checks.

4 I. 1. The Board may establish new levels of teacher
5 certificates: advanced, lead, and master. Each level shall have a
6 ~~salary increase requirement~~ stipend paid with state dollars from the
7 lottery funds as provided in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma
8 Statutes. The advanced certificate shall include a ~~salary increase~~
9 stipend of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), the lead certificate
10 shall include a ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Five Thousand Dollars
11 (\$5,000.00), and the master certificate shall include a ~~salary~~
12 ~~increase~~ stipend of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

13 2. A teacher who works in a school with an enrollment of forty
14 percent (40%) or more of students who are economically disadvantaged
15 as defined in Section 18-109.5 of this title or a school district
16 with an enrollment of fewer than one thousand students shall be paid
17 a one-time award in addition to the ~~salary increases~~ stipends
18 provided in paragraph 1 of this subsection:

19 a. One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for an
20 advanced certificate,

21 b. Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for a
22 lead certificate, and

23 c. Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for a master
24 certificate.

1 3. School districts may identify and designate the highest
2 quality teachers for advanced, lead, and master certificates.
3 Participating districts shall submit designation plans to the State
4 Department of Education for evaluation and approval. Districts
5 shall have local control and flexibility in determining how to
6 evaluate teachers and assign designations, but, at a minimum, the
7 designation system shall include a teacher observation, out-of-
8 classroom time, and a student performance component.

9 a. Teacher observation shall be based on the district's
10 selected Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
11 Evaluation System (TLE) evaluation tool or an
12 alternate method of evaluation; provided, the method
13 is evidenced-based. Alternate methods of evaluation
14 shall not replace the requirements of Section 6-101.16
15 of this title.

16 b. Each school district that elects to participate in
17 assigning advanced, lead, and master teacher
18 certificates shall include an out-of-classroom
19 component for its assigned teachers to allow for
20 professional growth opportunities while staying in the
21 classroom. How out-of-classroom time is allotted and
22 managed shall be determined by the school district and
23 submitted as part of its designation plan to the State
24 Department of Education for review and approval.

1 c. Student performance measures may be determined by the
2 district and may include, but shall not be limited to,
3 pre- and post-tests, summative or formative, and
4 portfolios. The school district application shall
5 show evidence of validity and reliability of the
6 measures.

7 d. No more than ten percent (10%) of each school
8 district's teachers may be designated as an advanced,
9 lead, or master teacher in any given school year.
10 Districts which receive Title I funds within the top
11 quartile of individual student allotment amounts may
12 designate an additional ten percent (10%) of teachers
13 employed at school sites which receive the Title I
14 funding as advanced, lead, and master.

15 Districts may use additional factors in determining which
16 teachers are eligible to receive a designation, such as student
17 surveys, teacher leadership responsibilities, teacher mentorship
18 responsibilities, family surveys, demonstration of district core
19 values, teacher peer surveys, and contributions to the broader
20 school community. ~~No more than ten percent (10%) of each school~~
21 ~~district's teachers may be designated as an advanced, lead, or~~
22 ~~master teacher in any given school year.~~

23 4. If a school district chooses to participate in this program,
24 the state shall provide the ~~increased salary~~ stipend amounts

1 indicated for advanced, lead, and master certificates in paragraph 1
2 of this subsection ~~above the base pay~~.

3 5. School districts that designate teachers for advanced, lead,
4 and master certificates do not have to participate in annual TLE
5 evaluations for the designated teachers.

6 6. School districts may designate teachers for advanced, lead,
7 or master certificates two times per year, once prior to the
8 beginning of the school year, and once prior to the beginning of the
9 second semester. Teachers statewide who receive these designations
10 shall be placed in professional development cohorts and provided
11 additional training opportunities from the State Department of
12 Education.

13 7. After initial approval by the State Department of Education,
14 the Department shall review and validate each participating school
15 district's teacher evaluation system biennially.

16 8. The State Department of Education shall annually report the
17 school districts participating in the program, the number of
18 advanced, lead, and master certificates awarded, and the total
19 amount in state funding that was distributed to teachers from the
20 Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund created in Section 6-190.2 of
21 this title.

22 9. The selection criteria; designation of advanced, lead, or
23 master teachers; and any associated ~~salary increases~~ stipend amounts
24 shall not be subject to collective bargaining.

1 10. Stipends provided pursuant to this subsection shall not be
2 included in the calculation of the teacher's salary for purposes of
3 meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for
4 purposes of calculating Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma
5 contributions or benefits.

6 J. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
7 a renewal schedule and associated fees for advanced, lead, and
8 master teaching certificates. The rules shall allow a teacher that
9 no longer meets the requirements of an advanced, lead, or master
10 teaching certificate to make application for the standard teaching
11 certificate.

12 K. The terms of the contracts issued to those holding advanced,
13 lead, and master teaching certificates shall include the following:

14 1. Advanced: an additional five (5) days to be used to
15 strengthen instructional leadership. A person with an advanced
16 teaching certificate shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend
17 of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) or the district's daily rate
18 of pay, whichever is higher, in addition to the salary for which the
19 teacher qualifies pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This
20 ~~increase stipend~~ shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery
21 funds as provided in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma
22 Statutes and shall be paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly
23 to teachers through school districts;

1 2. Lead: an additional ten (10) days to be used to strengthen
2 instructional leadership. A person with a lead teaching certificate
3 shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Five Thousand
4 Dollars (\$5,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever
5 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies
6 pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This ~~increase~~ stipend
7 shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery funds as provided
8 in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes and shall be
9 paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly to teachers through
10 school districts; and

11 3. Master: an additional fifteen (15) days to be used to
12 strengthen leadership. A person with a master teaching certificate
13 shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Ten Thousand
14 Dollars (\$10,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever
15 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies
16 pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This ~~increase~~ stipend
17 shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery funds as provided
18 in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes and shall be
19 paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly to teachers through
20 school districts.

21 If a person with an advanced, lead, or master teaching
22 certificate changes school districts during the life of the
23 certificate, the terms of the contracts required in this subsection
24 shall be subject to approval by the new employing school district.

1 L. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the Department shall
2 make the teaching certificates provided for in this section
3 available for any person who has received a recommendation from his
4 or her school district and who meets the eligibility criteria as
5 outlined in each school district's teacher evaluation system
6 provided for in subsection I of this section.

7 M. The funding necessary for the administration of this section
8 shall be provided from the Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund
9 created in Section 6-190.2 of this title. If funding for the
10 administration of the teaching certificates listed in subsection I
11 is not available, the Department shall not be required to fulfill
12 the requirements listed in subsections I, K, and L of this section.

13 N. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
14 implement the provisions of Section 6-180 et seq. of this title.

15 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 359, O.S.L.
16 2022, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 122, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S.
17 Supp. 2024, Section 6-190.2), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 6-190.2. A. There is hereby created in the State
19 Treasury a revolving fund for the State Department of Education to
20 be designated the "Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund". The
21 revolving fund shall be a continuing fund, without legislative
22 appropriation, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall be
23 under the control and management of the State Department of
24 Education. Expenditures from the Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund

1 shall be budgeted and expended as provided for in subsection B of
2 this section.

3 B. The State Department of Education shall utilize the funds
4 for the program outlined in Section 6-190 of this title. Funding
5 shall be allocated to school districts to provide the ~~increased~~
6 ~~salary~~ stipend amounts indicated for advanced, lead, and master
7 certificates as provided for in subsection I of Section 6-190 of
8 this title on a first-come, first-served basis until the cash is
9 exhausted for the school year.

10 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

11 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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