

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1955

By: Waldron, Rosecrants, Deck,
and Pittman of the House

and

Reinhardt of the Senate

An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-204.2, which relates to the Education Leadership Oklahoma program; updating references; clarifying award coverage; increasing maximum amount of award; changing conditions for repayment; authorizing reimbursement under certain conditions; expanding certain mentor program; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Education

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-204.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-204.2. A. ~~The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability and the State Board of Education are authorized to establish the Education Leadership Oklahoma program.

B. The purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program are to:

1. Provide teachers throughout the state information about National Board certification and the Education Leadership Oklahoma program services;

2. Provide technical assistance and National-Board-certified mentors to all teachers seeking National Board certification upon request;

3. Reward teachers who are seeking National Board certification by awarding them a portion of the ~~application processing charge and assessment fee and scholarship~~ National Board certification cost as provided in subsection D of this section; and

4. Provide recognition to National-Board-certified teachers.

C. To fulfill the objectives of the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

1. Inform teachers of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program and services it provides to teachers seeking National Board certification, emphasizing recruiting efforts toward teachers at high-poverty schools, schools identified as in need of improvement and in ~~counties~~ districts with the lowest percentage of teachers who have achieved National Board certification; and

2. Ensure that all teachers seeking National Board certification receive adequate information regarding the level of commitment required to acquire National Board certification.

D. The Commission shall select not more than one hundred applicants to participate in the program each fiscal year for whom the Commission shall pay ~~one-half (1/2) of the application processing charge and assessment fee for National Board certification. The total amount paid by the Commission shall not exceed One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$1,300.00). In addition the Commission shall also provide to the selected applicants a scholarship in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to cover other expenses associated with obtaining National Board certification up to One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00) of the National Board certification cost.~~

E. The Commission shall promulgate rules establishing a process for accepting applications for the Education Leadership Oklahoma program and for providing to applicants selected for the program up-front payment of the ~~application processing charge and assessment fee and scholarship~~ National Board certification cost. If a selected applicant who receives the up-front payment does not ~~complete National Board certification within three (3) years~~ fulfill all submission requirements for National Board certification as established by the certification vendor within the maximum allowable time frame, the applicant will be required to repay the full amount of the component fees paid on his or her behalf, the applicant shall

repay the Commission the full amount paid by the Commission pursuant to subsection D of this section. ~~All~~ Subject to the availability of funding, all selected applicants who do not receive an up-front payment and successfully complete National Board certification shall be reimbursed by the Commission for the ~~application processing charge and assessment fee~~ National Board certification cost. The total amount of reimbursement paid by the Commission shall not exceed ~~One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$1,300.00)~~ One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00).

~~F. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation contract with Southeastern Oklahoma State University to establish Education Leadership Oklahoma program training in higher education teacher preparation programs in the state to assist teachers in meeting the requirements to obtain National Board certification.~~

~~G.~~ All Subject to the availability of funding, all teachers seeking initial National Board certification either through the Education Leadership Oklahoma Scholarship program or paying their own way shall be eligible to participate in Education Leadership Oklahoma ~~program training~~ mentoring for up to three (3) years to assist them in meeting the requirements of the National Board certification process, free of charge.

~~H.~~ G. Subject to district board of education policy or collective bargaining agreement, additional professional leave days may be granted to teachers seeking National Board certification for National Board certification portfolio development. During the two (2) days of the additional professional days granted to teachers for National Board certification portfolio development, a substitute teacher shall be provided by the school district at no cost to the teacher.

~~I.~~ H. 1. The State Board of Education shall provide to teachers who attained National Board certification prior to June 30, 2013, a bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) annually over a ten-year period, to be paid no later than January 31 each year. The Board shall provide a bonus to any teacher who attains National Board certification after June 30, 2013, if the teacher was selected for the Education Leadership Oklahoma program before June 30, 2013, or the teacher has submitted an application for National Board certification to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards before June 30, 2013.

2. The teachers eligible to receive the annual bonus as provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall receive the annual bonus for the ten-year duration of their National Board certification and so long as they are teaching in the classroom full-time in an Oklahoma public school. No school or school district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this section.

3. The bonus shall not be included in the calculation of the teacher's salary for purposes of meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for purposes of compensating Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System contributions or benefits.

4. Teachers eligible to receive the annual bonus as provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall not be eligible to receive the additional salary increment for National Board certification as set forth in the minimum salary schedule in Section ~~3~~ 18-114.15 of this ~~act~~ title.

5. Teachers who attain National Board certification after June 30, 2013, shall be eligible to receive the additional salary increments for National Board certification as set forth in the minimum salary schedule in Section ~~3~~ 18-114.15 of this ~~act~~ title.

6. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules for a process by which a National-Board-certified teacher will verify that:

- a. the National Board certification has not lapsed,
- b. the teacher is still a full-time teacher, and
- c. for teachers eligible for the bonus, the teacher has not exceeded the limit of annual bonus payments as provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

~~¶~~ I. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education incorporate the National Board certification portfolio development into all programs in education leading to a master's level degree.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 8th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____