

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2125

By: Staires of the House

and

Sacchieri of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
12 Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 162,
13 Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
14 6-122.3), which relates to adjunct teachers;
15 clarifying instructional levels of adjunct teachers;
16 prohibiting adjunct teachers from teaching certain
17 classes; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.7,
18 which relates to early childhood education programs;
19 authorizing adjunct teachers; providing an effective
20 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, as
23 last amended by Section 162, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.
24 2024, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

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

- 1 1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
2 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
3 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
4 attained a retention grade point average of not less
5 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or
6 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
7 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
8 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree
9 or a master of library science degree, from an
10 institution accredited by a national or regional
11 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
12 Secretary of the United States Department of
13 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
14 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
15 degrees, or
16 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
17 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
18 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
19 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
20 to an area of certification as determined by the State
21 Board of Education, and
22 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b
23 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency
24 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an

1 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
2 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
3 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-
4 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
5 Department of Career and Technology Education;

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

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

17 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
18 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
19 subsection E of this section;

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

23 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
24 district in this state offering employment in the area of

1 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
2 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
3 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
4 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
5 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
6 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
7 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
8 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes
9 of Section 6-195 of this title.

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

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

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

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

4 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
5 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
6 other inductees.

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

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

1 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
2 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
3 for standard certification.

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

14 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
15 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
16 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
17 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

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

3 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
4 qualification; and

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

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

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

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

20 B. The State Board of Education shall promulgate standards for
21 early childhood education programs for children who are at least
22 four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the ensuing school
23 year. The standards shall include both half-day programs consisting
24 of not less than two and one-half (2 1/2) hours per school day, and

1 full-day programs of six (6) hours. The standards for all early
2 childhood education programs shall require a certified teacher, as
3 specified in this section, or an adjunct teacher as authorized by
4 subsection G of Section 6-122.3 of this title to be present in the
5 classroom for the length of the school day. Such program shall:

6 1. Be directed toward developmentally appropriate objectives
7 for such children, rather than toward academic objectives suitable
8 for older children;

9 2. Accommodate the needs of all children and families
10 regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and

11 3. Require that any teacher employed by a public school to
12 teach in such early childhood education program shall be certified
13 in early childhood education.

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

20 D. A school district may offer such early childhood education
21 program within the district, in cooperation with other districts,
22 through the use of transfers as specified by law, or by contracting
23 with a private or public provider of early childhood education
24 programs, or by contracting for classroom space with a licensed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OVERSIGHT, dated
5 03/04/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.
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