

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. 2702

By: Ford of the House

and

Rader of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to special education; defining term;
12 requiring certain qualifications for special
13 education administrators; requiring State Board of
14 Education to issue certain acknowledgement of
15 competency; requiring training cover certain topics;
16 requiring competency exam; exempting certain special
17 education administrators from requirement; providing
18 for codification; providing an effective date; and
19 declaring an emergency.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-189.3 of Title 70, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 A. For this section, "special education administrator" means
the director and assistant director of a special education program
for a school district.

1 B. Beginning July 1, 2025, no school district shall employ a
2 special education administrator unless the individual:

3 1. Holds a valid standard teaching certificate issued by the
4 State Board of Education; and

5 2. Except as provided for in subsection D of this section,
6 obtains an acknowledgment of competency within one (1) year of being
7 employed as a special education administrator.

8 C. The State Board of Education shall issue an acknowledgement
9 of competency in the area of mild-moderate disabilities, severe-
10 profound disabilities, or comprehensive special education to a
11 special education administrator who has:

12 1. Satisfactorily completed a one-hundred-fifty-clock-hour
13 special education program prescribed by the State Board of Education
14 which shall include training on the rules and regulations for the
15 Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA); and

16 2. Achieved at least a seventy percent (70%) on a competency
17 examination in the area of mild-moderate disabilities, severe-
18 profound disabilities, or comprehensive special education
19 administered by the State Department of Education.

20 D. An individual who has a valid Special Education Teaching
21 Certificate as provided for in Sections 6-122.7, 6-122.8, or 6-122.9
22 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall not be required to obtain
23 an acknowledgement of competency.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated 03/03/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.