

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 4115

By: West (Tammy) of the House

and

Seifried of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
12 Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter
13 277, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-194),
14 which relates to professional development programs;
15 changing maximum number of professional development
16 hours from one hundred fifty to two hundred during
17 any five-year period for classroom teachers with less
18 than five years of teaching experience; providing an
19 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as
22 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 277, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.
23 2025, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

24 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this
state shall establish professional development programs for the
certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs

1 shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a
2 professional development committee appointed by the board of
3 education for the district.

4 B. Each professional development committee shall include
5 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed
6 mental health providers, and parents, guardians, or custodians of
7 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher
8 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional
9 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The
10 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of
11 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers
12 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to
13 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

14 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional
15 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach
16 to analyze student data and determine district and school
17 professional development needs. The professional development
18 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of
19 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum
20 areas for the following goals:

- 21 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the
- 22 district and each school site;
- 23 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
- 24

1 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-
2 mandated tests and nationally norm-referenced college entrance
3 exams;

4 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

5 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

6 Each program may also include components on classroom management
7 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians,
8 or custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic
9 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116
10 of this title shall be required to complete at a frequency as
11 determined by the board of education. The State Board of Education
12 shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing
13 and implementing racial and ethnic education components into
14 professional development programs.

15 D. A program which includes the following information shall be
16 completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school
17 district, and then once every fifth academic year:

18 1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;

19 2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;

20 3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and

21 4. Available resources.

22 E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year,
23 training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident
24 teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three

1 shall be required to complete the autism training during the
2 resident year and at least one time every three (3) years
3 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals
4 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be
5 required to complete the autism training at least one time every
6 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum
7 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources
8 available, and an introduction to positive behavior supports to
9 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school
10 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or
11 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically
12 designed for school counselors.

13 Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional
14 development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited
15 to, professional development provided by the district, any state
16 agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

17 F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a
18 dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. Beginning in the 2023-
19 2024 school year, the program shall include information and training
20 in dysgraphia. At a minimum, the program shall include:

21 1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in
22 students;

23 2. Training in effective classroom instruction to meet the
24 needs of students with dyslexia; and

1 3. Available dyslexia resources for teachers, students, and
2 parents.

3 G. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each
4 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district
5 board of education to meet the professional development requirements
6 established by the board, or established through the negotiation
7 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the
8 professional development requirements established by each board of
9 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum
10 number of the total number of points required to maintain
11 employment; provided, no more than a total of ~~one hundred fifty~~
12 ~~(150)~~ two hundred (200) hours of local, state, or federal
13 professional development or training shall be required for classroom
14 teachers with less than five (5) years of experience as a full-time
15 classroom teacher in the preceding ten (10) years during any five-
16 year period and no more than a total of one hundred fifty
17 (150) hours of local, state, or federal professional development or
18 training shall be required for all other classroom teachers during
19 any five-year period. Failure of any teacher to meet district board
20 of education professional development requirements may be grounds
21 for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such
22 failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary
23 increments affecting the teacher. Teachers shall maintain written
24 documentation of all their completed professional development.

1 H. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State
2 Department of Education on the district level professional
3 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results
4 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection
5 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and
6 offer a professional development program as provided for in
7 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to
8 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but
9 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not
10 to offer a program and all professional development activities
11 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

12 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall
13 develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection H
14 of this section. The Department shall also make such information
15 available on its website.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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

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22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OVERSIGHT, dated
23 02/26/2026 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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