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February 10, 2026

By: Dossett

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.3, which relates to definitions for teachers; modifying certain definition; updating statutory language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-101.3. As used in Section 6-101 et seq. of this title:

1. "Administrator" means a duly certified person who devotes a majority of time to service as a superintendent, elementary superintendent, principal, supervisor, vice principal, or in any other administrative or supervisory capacity in the school district;

2. "Dismissal" means the discontinuance of the teaching service of an administrator or teacher during the term of a written contract, as provided by law;

3. "Nonreemployment" means the nonrenewal of the contract of an administrator or teacher upon expiration of the contract;

1 4. "Career teacher" means a teacher who:

2 a. is employed by a school district prior to the 2017-
3 2018 school year and has completed three (3) or more
4 consecutive complete school years as a teacher in one
5 school district under a written continuing or
6 temporary teaching contract, ~~or~~

7 b. is employed for the first time by a school district
8 under a written continuing or temporary teaching
9 contract during the 2017-2018 school year and
10 thereafter and:

11 (1) has completed three (3) consecutive complete
12 school years as a teacher in one school district
13 under a written continuing or temporary teaching
14 contract and has achieved a district evaluation
15 rating of "superior" as measured pursuant to the
16 ~~TLE~~ Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
17 Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in Section
18 6-101.16 of this title for at least two (2) of
19 the three (3) school years,

20 (2) has completed four (4) consecutive complete
21 school years as a teacher in one school district
22 under a written continuing or temporary teaching
23 contract, has averaged a district evaluation
24 rating of at least "effective" as measured

1 pursuant to the TLE for the four-year period, and
2 has received district evaluation ratings of at
3 least "effective" for the last two (2) years of
4 the four-year period, or

5 (3) has completed four (4) or more consecutive
6 complete school years in one school district
7 under a written continuing or temporary teaching
8 contract and has not met the requirements of
9 subparagraph a or b of this paragraph, only if
10 the principal of the school at which the teacher
11 is employed submits a petition to the
12 superintendent of the school district requesting
13 that the teacher be granted career status, the
14 superintendent agrees with the petition, and the
15 school district board of education approves the
16 petition. The principal shall specify in the
17 petition the underlying facts supporting the
18 granting of career status to the teacher, or

19 c. after meeting the requirements of subparagraph a or b
20 of this paragraph in one school district, is employed
21 by another school district under a written continuing
22 or temporary teaching contract and the school district
23 board of education has approved the granting of career
24 status to the teacher;

1 5. "Teacher hearing" means the hearing before a school district
2 board of education after a recommendation for dismissal or
3 nonreemployment of a teacher has been made but before any final
4 action is taken on the recommendation, held for the purpose of
5 affording the teacher all rights guaranteed by the United States
6 Constitution and the Oklahoma Constitution ~~of Oklahoma~~ under
7 circumstances and for enabling the board to determine whether to
8 approve or disapprove the recommendation;

9 6. "Probationary teacher" means a teacher who:

10 a. is employed by a school district prior to the 2017-
11 2018 school year and has completed fewer than three
12 (3) consecutive complete school years as a teacher in
13 one school district under a written teaching contract,
14 or

15 b. is employed for the first time by a school district
16 under a written teaching contract during the 2017-2018
17 school year and thereafter and has not met the
18 requirements for career teacher as provided in
19 paragraph 4 of this section;

20 7. "Suspension" or "suspended" means the temporary
21 discontinuance of the services of an administrator or teacher, as
22 provided by law;

23 8. "Teacher" ~~means a person defined as a teacher~~ shall have the
24 same meaning as provided for in Section 1-116 of this title; and

1 9. "District evaluation rating" means the rating issued based
2 on the components of the TLE as set forth in subsection B of Section
3 6-101.16 of this title.

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

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

9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
February 10, 2026 - DO PASS
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