

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 24, 2026

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1489

6 By: Pugh

7 [schools - certification requirements - professional
8 education - services - funds - rights - information -
9 rules - effective date -
10 emergency]

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

12 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189, as
13 amended by Section 1, Chapter 92, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,
14 Section 6-189), is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 6-189. A. The certification system required by the
16 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act as part of the new teacher
17 preparation system shall be competency-based. The competencies for
18 certification shall be integrated with competencies specified in
19 Section 6-185 of this title. By July 1, 1996, the State Board of
20 Education shall adopt general competencies for certification, and by
21 January 1, 1997, the Board shall have adopted full competencies and
22 implemented the certification system as required in ~~this act~~ the
23 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. No higher education courses or
24 credit hours may be specified by the State Board of Education in

1 rules for certification. Nothing in the certification rules adopted
2 by the Board shall prohibit the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
3 Education from adopting policies and procedures it deems appropriate
4 for coursework, grade point average, or credit hours for teacher
5 preparation at institutions in The Oklahoma State System of Higher
6 Education.

7 B. The certification requirements for a school principal not
8 alternatively certified under subsection D of this section shall
9 include not less than:

- 10 1. Completion of a standard master's degree;
- 11 2. Completion of a program in education administration approved
12 by the ~~Oklahoma~~ Commission for ~~Teacher Preparation~~ Educational
13 Quality and Accountability with an emphasis on curriculum,
14 instruction, and building-level leadership skills. The requirement
15 in this paragraph shall not apply to any person who has completed a
16 master's degree program in education that included competencies that
17 are substantially equal to those listed in this paragraph and if the
18 degree was completed prior to July 1, 2005;

19 3. a. Any other professional education and requirements as
20 may be fixed by the State Board of Education.

21 b. The requirements of this paragraph shall include
22 professional education specific to the Individuals
23 with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and applicable

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1 state laws related to the provision of special
2 education services which shall include at a minimum:
3 (1) federal and state laws and regulations related to
4 the provision of special education services,
5 (2) procedural safeguards and parental rights,
6 (3) child find obligations and evaluation
7 requirements,
8 (4) development, implementation, and monitoring of
9 individualized education programs (IEPs),
10 (5) discipline of students with disabilities, and
11 (6) due process hearings, complaint procedures, and
12 compliance obligations of public school districts
13 and administrators.

14 c. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
15 providing for approval of professional education
16 providers and courses, documentation and reporting
17 requirements, and procedures for verifying completion
18 of the required professional education.

19 d. Professional education completed pursuant to this
20 paragraph may be used to satisfy professional
21 development or continuing education requirements for
22 certification renewal;

23 4. A passing score on the subject area competency examination
24 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

1 5. A minimum of two (2) years of successful teaching experience
2 in public or private schools accredited by the State Board of
3 Education or by the proper accrediting authority of another state of
4 the United States.

5 C. The certification requirements for a superintendent of
6 schools not alternatively certified under subsection D of this
7 section shall include not less than:

8 1. Certification as a school principal or completion of the
9 certification requirements for a school principal as set forth in
10 subsection B of this section;

11 2. Completion of a program in education administration approved
12 by the ~~Oklahoma~~ Commission for ~~Teacher Preparation~~ Educational
13 Quality and Accountability with an emphasis on district-level
14 leadership skills, and which shall include the following
15 competencies:

- 16 a. instructional leadership,
- 17 b. organizational leadership, including education
18 finance, education law, and risk management,
- 19 c. collaborative and community leadership, and
- 20 d. ethical leadership.

21 The requirement in this paragraph shall not apply to any person
22 who has completed ~~an Oklahoma~~ a Commission for ~~Teacher Preparation~~
23 Educational Quality and Accountability approved ~~Master's Degree in~~
24 Education Administration master's degree in education administration

1 or has completed a program in education that included competencies
2 that are substantially equal to those listed in this paragraph, and
3 if the degree or program was completed between the effective date of
4 this act and July 1, 2005;

5 3. Any other professional education and requirements as may be
6 fixed by the State Board of Education;

7 4. A passing score on the subject area competency examination
8 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

9 5. A minimum of two (2) years of administrative experience in
10 public or private schools accredited by the State Board of Education
11 or by the proper accrediting authority of another state of the
12 United States.

13 D. 1. The standards for alternative certification for
14 superintendents of schools and principals shall include:

- 15 a. the completion of a standard master's degree,
16 b. two (2) years of relevant work experience in a
17 supervisory or administrative capacity,
18 c. a passing score on the subject area competency
19 examination required in Section 6-187 of this title,
20 and
21 d. filing with the director of teacher education at an
22 Oklahoma accredited institution of higher education a
23 plan for completing an alternative administrative
24 preparation program within three (3) years. Relevant

1 work experience and coursework may be considered and
2 applied to complete the plan.

3 2. An alternative certificate for superintendent of schools and
4 principals shall not exceed three (3) years and shall not be
5 renewable.

6 3. Upon successful completion of an alternative administrative
7 preparation program by a participant, the State Board of Education
8 shall issue a standard certificate for superintendent or principal,
9 as applicable, to the applicant.

10 4. Any person participating in an alternative certification
11 program for superintendent of schools and principals on ~~the~~
12 ~~effective date of this act~~ July 1, 2005, shall be subject to the
13 program requirements in effect prior to ~~the effective date of this~~
14 ~~act~~ July 1, 2005.

15 E. The certification requirements for a superintendent of a
16 technology center school district shall include not less than a
17 standard master's degree, any other professional education
18 requirements as may be fixed by the State Board of Education, and a
19 minimum of four (4) years teaching, supervisory, or administrative
20 experience, which may include teaching of full-time adult students,
21 in a technology center school district. A person meeting the
22 requirements set forth in subsection C of this section shall be
23 eligible for a certificate for superintendent of a technology center
24 school district.

1 F. The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall
2 promulgate rules for a certification system specifically for
3 teachers and instructors in the technology center school districts.
4 The system shall be competency-based. The competencies for
5 certification shall include industry-based skills, standards, and
6 certifications.

7 G. Certificates issued by the State Board of Education may be
8 revoked by the State Board of Education for willful violation of any
9 rule of the Board or of any federal or state law or other proper
10 cause but only after sufficient hearing has been given before the
11 Board.

12 H. Teaching in a Head Start program or programs shall be used
13 for renewal of a standard teaching certificate.

14 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 13-101, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 13-101. A. The State Department of Education and the
17 public school districts in this state shall comply with provisions
18 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), P.L. No.
19 108-446, and the Department shall be authorized to expend federal
20 funds to provide special education and related services necessary
21 for children with disabilities. "Children with disabilities" shall
22 mean children, as defined by IDEA, who are three (3) years of age
23 through twenty-one (21) years of age.

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1 B. 1. The ~~several~~ school districts of ~~Oklahoma~~ in this state
2 are hereby authorized to provide special education and related
3 services necessary for children with disabilities ~~as hereinafter~~
4 ~~defined~~. Two or more school districts may establish cooperative
5 programs of special education for children with disabilities when
6 such arrangement is approved by the State Board of Education. Funds
7 may be expended for school services for an additional period during
8 the summer months for approved programs for qualified children with
9 disabilities, provided their individualized education program
10 ~~(I.E.P.)~~ (IEP) states the need for extended school year special
11 education and related services. ~~Children with disabilities shall~~
12 ~~mean children, as defined in the Individuals with Disabilities~~
13 ~~Education Act (IDEA), P.L. No. 105-17, who are three (3) years of~~
14 ~~age.~~

15 ~~Provided, on~~ 2. On and after July 1, 1991, children from age
16 birth ~~through two (2) years (0-36 months) of~~ until they reach the
17 age of three (3) who meet the eligibility criteria specified in
18 Section 13-123 of this title, shall be served pursuant to the
19 provisions of the Oklahoma Early Intervention Act. The attendance
20 of ~~said~~ such children in special education classes shall be included
21 in the average daily membership computations for State Aid purposes.

22 C. The State Board of Education is authorized to modify and
23 redefine by regulation the eligibility definitions whenever such
24 modification is required to receive federal assistance under the

1 ~~Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), P.L. No. 105-17~~
2 provisions of IDEA. Rules developed pursuant to Section 18-109.5 of
3 this title shall provide for such modification and revised
4 definitions.

5 D. It shall be the duty of each school district to provide
6 special education and related services for all children with
7 disabilities as herein defined who reside in that school district in
8 accordance with ~~the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act~~
9 ~~(IDEA), P.L. No. 105-17~~ IDEA. This duty may be satisfied by:

10 1. The district directly providing special education for such
11 children;

12 2. The district joining in a cooperative program with another
13 district or districts to provide special education for such
14 children;

15 3. The district joining in a written agreement with a private
16 or public institution, licensed residential child care and treatment
17 facility, or day treatment facility within such district to provide
18 special education for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing,
19 children who are blind or partially blind, or other eligible
20 children with disabilities; or

21 4. Transferring eligible children and youth with disabilities
22 to other school districts which accept them and provide special
23 education and related services for such children, with the district
24 in which the child resides paying tuition ~~therefor as hereinafter~~

1 ~~provided.~~ For those students who transfer pursuant to the
2 provisions of the Education Open Transfer Act, the receiving school
3 district shall assume all responsibility for education and shall
4 count the student for federal and state funding purposes according
5 to the provisions of subsection B of Section 13-103 of this title.

6 E. The parent or legal guardian of a child with disabilities
7 shall have the right to:

8 1. Review all documents including, but not limited to,
9 evaluations, reports, progress monitoring data, work samples,
10 behavior logs, and discipline records, at least five (5) business
11 days prior to any meeting regarding an IEP, a meeting conducted
12 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or any
13 other meeting regarding accommodations for a child with a
14 disability. The parent or legal guardian may agree in writing to a
15 review period of fewer than five (5) business days; and

16 2. Bring any individual of the parent or legal guardian's
17 choosing including an individual with unique knowledge or expertise
18 regarding the child to any meeting with school personnel including,
19 but not limited to, meetings regarding an IEP, meetings conducted
20 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and
21 meetings concerning the academics, behavior, discipline, attendance,
22 health, or any other matter involving the child with a disability.

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1 F. The Department shall publish on its website information
2 about the dispute resolution options available to parents and legal
3 guardians of children with disabilities, which shall include:

4 1. IEP facilitation;

5 2. Mediation;

6 3. Due process; and

7 4. State complaint procedure.

8 G. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules and update
9 relevant special education policies and procedures to comply with
10 the provisions of this section.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

12 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
17 February 24, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS