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February 24, 2026

By: Stanley

An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 92, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-189), which relates to certification requirements for superintendent and principal; adding requirement for principal certification to include certain professional education; updating statutory references; 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 6-189, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 92, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-189), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-189. A. The certification system required by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act as part of the new teacher preparation system shall be competency-based. The competencies for certification shall be integrated with competencies specified in Section 6-185 of this title. By July 1, 1996, the State Board of Education shall adopt general competencies for certification, and by January 1, 1997, the Board shall have adopted full competencies and implemented the certification system as required in ~~this act~~ the

1 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. No higher education courses or
2 credit hours may be specified by the State Board of Education in
3 rules for certification. Nothing in the certification rules adopted
4 by the Board shall prohibit the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
5 Education from adopting policies and procedures it deems appropriate
6 for coursework, grade point average, or credit hours for teacher
7 preparation at institutions in The Oklahoma State System of Higher
8 Education.

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

12 1. Completion of a standard master's degree;

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

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

23 b. The requirements of this paragraph shall include
24 professional education specific to the Individuals

1 with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and applicable
2 state laws related to the provision of special
3 education services which shall include at a minimum:

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

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

20 d. Professional education completed pursuant to this
21 paragraph may be used to satisfy professional
22 development or continuing education requirements for
23 certification renewal;
24

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 The requirement in this paragraph shall not apply to any person
24 who has completed ~~an Oklahoma~~ a Commission for ~~Teacher Preparation~~

1 Educational Quality and Accountability approved ~~Master's Degree in~~
2 ~~Education Administration~~ master's degree in education administration
3 or has completed a program in education that included competencies
4 that are substantially equal to those listed in this paragraph, and
5 if the degree or program was completed between the effective date of
6 this act and July 1, 2005;

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

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

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

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

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

1 plan for completing an alternative administrative
2 preparation program within three (3) years. Relevant
3 work experience and coursework may be considered and
4 applied to complete the plan.

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

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

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

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

1 eligible for a certificate for superintendent of a technology center
2 school district.

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

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

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

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.

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
22 February 24, 2026 - DO PASS
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