

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 24, 2026

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 SENATE BILL NO. 1614

By: Seifried of the Senate

and

Caldwell (Chad) of the  
House

8 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
9 Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 162,  
10 Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section  
11 6-122.3), which relates to requirements for  
12 alternative teaching certification; modifying  
13 requirements for adjunct teachers; updating statutory  
14 language; updating statutory references; providing an  
15 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, as  
18 last amended by Section 162, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
19 2025, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

20 Section 6-122.3. A. The State Board of Education shall grant  
21 an alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes  
22 application to the Board and meets the following criteria:

- 23 1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an  
24 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the  
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has

1 attained a retention grade point average ~~of~~ not less  
2 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

3 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as  
4 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,  
5 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree,  
6 or a master of library science degree, from an  
7 institution accredited by a national or regional  
8 accrediting agency which is recognized by the  
9 ~~Secretary of the United States Department~~ Secretary of  
10 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
11 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal  
12 degrees, or

13 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an  
14 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the  
15 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has  
16 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds  
17 to an area of certification as determined by the State  
18 Board of Education, and

19 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b,  
20 ~~and~~ or c of this paragraph, has demonstrated  
21 competency or completed a major in a field that  
22 corresponds to an area of specialization for an  
23 Elementary-Secondary Certificate or a Secondary  
24 Certificate as determined by the State Board of

1 Education or a vocational-technical certificate as  
2 recommended by the Oklahoma Department of Career and  
3 Technology Education;

4 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by  
5 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)  
6 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject  
7 matter and the number of clock or semester hours required for the  
8 professional education component for each person making application  
9 for an alternative placement teaching certificate based on the  
10 criteria of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

11 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of  
12 six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours and a maximum of  
13 eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock  
14 hours for the professional education component.

15 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all  
16 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of  
17 subsection ~~E~~ F of this section;

18 3. Has passed the subject area portion of the competency  
19 examination required in Section 6-187 of this title in the area of  
20 specialization for which certification is sought; and

21 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school  
22 district in this state offering employment in the area of  
23 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that  
24 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by

1 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek  
2 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in  
3 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection  
4 shall be considered a ~~“valid~~ valid certificate of ~~qualification”~~  
5 qualification for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this  
6 title, and the holder of the certificate shall be considered an  
7 inductee for the purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

8 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be  
9 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon  
10 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district  
11 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of  
12 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution  
13 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative  
14 placement program.

15 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

16 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education  
17 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,  
18 the ~~North Central Association of Colleges and Schools~~ Higher  
19 Learning Commission, and by the ~~Oklahoma~~ Commission for ~~Teacher~~  
20 ~~Preparation~~ Educational Quality and Accountability to offer teacher  
21 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed  
22 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of  
23 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

24

1           2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an  
2 ~~Oklahoma~~ institution of higher education in this state a plan for  
3 meeting standard certification requirements within three (3) years;  
4 and

5           3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section  
6 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as  
7 other inductees.

8           D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the  
9 requirements for certification and, upon demonstration by an  
10 individual of specific competency in the subject area of  
11 specialization, may grant a certificate to the individual. The  
12 State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant  
13 exceptions.

14           E. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
15 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an  
16 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination  
17 for initial certification in a field which does not require an  
18 advanced degree pursuant to this section if the candidate has an  
19 advanced degree in a subject that is substantially comparable to the  
20 content assessed on a subject area examination. The degree shall be  
21 from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting  
22 agency which is recognized by the United States Secretary ~~of the~~  
23 ~~U.S. Department~~ of Education. The Commission shall provide the  
24 Board with the necessary information to determine comparability.

1 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience  
2 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants  
3 for standard certification.

4 G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
5 authorizing adjunct teachers who ~~shall~~:

6 1. Shall have high school diplomas and be persons with  
7 distinguished qualifications in their ~~field.~~ ~~Adjunct teachers shall~~  
8 fields;

9 2. Shall not be required to meet standard certification; and

10 3. Shall not be employed by a public school district or a  
11 public charter school in this state as a full-time mathematics or  
12 English language arts teacher in grades **kindergarten** through five.

13 A person employed as an adjunct teacher pursuant to this subsection  
14 who does not hold a valid certificate to teach shall not be  
15 considered a teacher as defined by Section 1-116 of this title.

16 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the  
17 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Educational Quality and  
18 Accountability an annual report of information as specified by the  
19 Commission regarding participation in the alternative placement  
20 programs offered by the institution.

21 I. The ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Educational  
22 Quality and Accountability shall not accredit, renew the  
23 accreditation of, or otherwise approve any teacher education program  
24 of any institution of higher education in this state that has not

1 implemented alternative placement programs in at least four areas of  
2 specialization including mathematics, science, and a foreign  
3 language. Each institution shall allow individuals who meet the  
4 criteria of subsections A and C of this section to be:

5 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further  
6 qualification; and

7 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for  
8 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section  
9 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year  
10 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any  
11 person seeking standard certification through an alternative  
12 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses  
13 during regular semesters if offered.

14 J. The criteria specified in subsection I of this section ~~can~~  
15 may be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or  
16 more institutions of higher education.

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

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

22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
23 February 24, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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