

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1317

By: Dossett

AS INTRODUCED

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;

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

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

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

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

13 (1) has completed three (3) consecutive complete
14 school years as a teacher in one school district
15 under a written continuing or temporary teaching
16 contract and has achieved a district evaluation
17 rating of "superior" as measured pursuant to the
18 ~~TLE~~ Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
19 Evaluation System (TLE) as set forth in Section
20 6-101.16 of this title for at least two (2) of
21 the three (3) school years,

22 (2) has completed four (4) consecutive complete
23 school years as a teacher in one school district
24 under a written continuing or temporary teaching

1 contract, has averaged a district evaluation
2 rating of at least "effective" as measured
3 pursuant to the TLE for the four-year period, and
4 has received district evaluation ratings of at
5 least "effective" for the last two (2) years of
6 the four-year period, or

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

21 c. after meeting the requirements of subparagraph a or b
22 of this paragraph in one school district, is employed
23 by another school district under a written continuing
24 or temporary teaching contract and the school district

1 board of education has approved the granting of career
2 status to the teacher;

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 9. "District evaluation rating" means the rating issued based
4 on the components of the TLE as set forth in subsection B of Section
5 6-101.16 of this title.

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

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

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