

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1614

By: Seifried

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 162, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-122.3), which relates to requirements for alternative teaching certification; modifying requirements for adjunct teachers; updating statutory language; updating statutory references; 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 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 162, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

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

1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has attained a retention grade point average ~~of~~ not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

- 1 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
2 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
3 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree,
4 or a master of library science degree, from an
5 institution accredited by a national or regional
6 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
7 ~~Secretary of the United States Department~~ Secretary of
8 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
9 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
10 degrees, or
- 11 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
12 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
13 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
14 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
15 to an area of certification as determined by the State
16 Board of Education, and
- 17 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b,
18 ~~and~~ or c of this paragraph, has demonstrated
19 competency or completed a major in a field that
20 corresponds to an area of specialization for an
21 Elementary-Secondary Certificate or a Secondary
22 Certificate as determined by the State Board of
23 Education or a vocational-technical certificate as
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recommended by the Oklahoma Department of Career and
Technology Education;

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

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

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

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

4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
district in this state offering employment in the area of
specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek

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

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

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

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

23 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an
24 ~~Oklahoma~~ institution of higher education in this state a plan for

1 meeting standard certification requirements within three (3) years;
2 and

3 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
4 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
5 other inductees.

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

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

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