

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1718

By: Pugh

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; directing the State Department of Education, in certain collaboration, to establish the Oklahoma Principal Leadership Development Program; providing purpose of program; directing the Department to implement the program in certain phases; directing the Department to provide certain stipends to certain principals beginning in certain school years, subject to available funding; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-250 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, shall establish the Oklahoma Principal Leadership Development Program to increase the effectiveness of school principals. The program shall provide a principal leadership framework to reflect best practices and a

1 statewide infrastructure that provides consistent access to
2 sustained, high-quality professional development and mentoring for
3 school principals.

4 B. The State Department of Education shall implement the
5 Oklahoma Principal Leadership Development Program in the following
6 three phases:

7 1. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the Department shall
8 publish a professional development plan for principals that provides
9 learning guidelines and goals. The plan shall include at least one
10 goal related to student academic growth or achievement, or both, and
11 at least one goal for school climate. The plan shall include five
12 (5) days of high-quality professional development targeted on
13 building skills for school leadership. The plan for elementary
14 school principals shall include professional development in early
15 literacy and numeracy. The Department may identify and publish a
16 list of professional development providers or programs that meet the
17 requirements of this paragraph;

18 2. Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, each new principal
19 shall work with a principal mentor for two (2) consecutive years.
20 For the purposes of this section, a new principal is an individual
21 who has completed the certification requirements for a school
22 principal pursuant to Section 6-189 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
23 Statutes and is serving in his or her first or second year as a
24 principal of a public school in this state. A principal mentor is

1 an individual who has completed the certification requirements for a
2 school principal and has been employed as a public school principal
3 for at least five (5) years. A principal mentor shall complete a
4 training program developed or selected by the Department; and

5 3. Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, the State Department
6 of Education, in collaboration with the Office of Educational
7 Quality and Accountability and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
8 Education, shall use information gained from implementation of
9 paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection to develop a year-long
10 principal leadership academy. The Department may establish an
11 implementation timeline for the academy with the goal of providing
12 an opportunity to all certified principals in this state to complete
13 the academy.

14 C. Subject to the availability of funding, beginning with the
15 2029-2030 school year, the State Department of Education shall
16 provide a stipend of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to new
17 principals, as defined in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this
18 section, who:

19 1. Complete five (5) days of high-quality professional
20 development required by paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section;

21 2. Complete the two-year mentorship required by paragraph 2 of
22 subsection B of this section; and

23 3. Are employed by a public school district in this state.
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1 D. Upon implementation of the year-long principal leadership
2 academy as provided for in paragraph 3 of subsection B of this
3 section and subject to the availability of funding, the State
4 Department of Education shall provide a stipend of Five Thousand
5 Dollars (\$5,000.00) to certified principals who:

6 1. Complete the principal leadership academy as provided for in
7 paragraph 3 of subsection B of this section; and

8 2. Are employed by a public school district in this state.

9 E. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to
10 implement the provisions of this section.

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

12 SECTION 3. 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.

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