

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

POLICY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 4427

By: Hilbert

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to adjunct teachers; amending Section 1, Chapter 210, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-122.12), which relates to adjunct teachers; authorizing public and charter school district to hire adjunct teachers who are persons with distinguished qualifications in their field; directing the State Board of Education to promulgate rules defining distinguished qualifications; requiring adjunct teachers without a baccalaureate degree to meet certain requirements; prohibiting adjunct teachers from teaching core curriculum subjects in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade beginning with the 2026-2027 school year; permitting previously employed adjunct teachers to continue to teach core curriculum subjects in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade if granted a waiver from the State Board of Education; prohibiting an adjunct teacher from teaching more than five years unless he or she holds a teaching certificate, has completed the requirements to become certified, or is on a pathway to become certified within two years; clarifying status of adjunct who does not hold a valid certificate to teach; 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 alternative placement teaching certificate; removing adjunct teacher language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 210, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-122.12), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.12. A. Public and charter school districts in Oklahoma shall be authorized to hire adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished qualifications in their field. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules defining distinguished qualifications.

B. Adjunct teachers without a baccalaureate degree shall:

1. Be enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program with an estimated completion of less than two (2) years and shall provide proof of satisfactory completion of coursework to his or her employing school district and the State Board of Education each semester; or

2. Have a minimum of twenty (20) years of verifiable, distinguished experience in the subject matter in which the person will be employed as an adjunct teacher to instruct.

C. 1. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, adjunct teachers shall not teach in core curriculum subjects, such as math, English language arts, science, or social studies in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade.

1        2. If a public or charter school district employed an adjunct  
2 teacher to teach core curriculum classes in pre-kindergarten through  
3 fourth grade prior to the 2026-2027 school year, the school district  
4 may apply for a waiver to the State Board of Education. To be  
5 eligible to apply for a waiver, the adjunct teacher shall have:

- 6            a. previously taught core curriculum classes in pre-  
7            kindergarten through fourth grade, and  
8            b. completed professional development training in the  
9            science of reading.

10        If the waiver is granted by the State Board, the school district  
11 may continue to employ the adjunct teacher to teach core curriculum  
12 classes in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade.

13        D. An adjunct teacher shall not teach longer than five (5)  
14 years unless he or she meets the following criteria:

- 15            1. Holds a valid teaching certificate;  
16            2. Has completed the requirements to receive an alternate or  
17 standard teaching certificate; or  
18            3. Is on a pathway to complete alternative or standard  
19 certification within the next two (2) years. If certification is  
20 not achieved within two (2) years, the adjunct teacher shall no  
21 longer be employed as an adjunct teacher.

22        E. A person employed as an adjunct teacher pursuant to this  
23 section who does not hold a valid certificate to teach shall not be  
24 considered a teacher as defined by Section 1-116 of this title.

1        F. The State Department of Education shall publish an annual  
2 report on the status of adjunct teachers, authorized by Section 6-  
3 122.3 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, in this  
4 state. The report shall include:

5            1. Qualifications adopted by the State Board of Education to  
6 determine eligibility of adjunct teacher candidates;

7            2. The subject areas or courses in which adjunct teachers are  
8 teaching; and

9            3. The types of distinguished qualifications adjunct teachers  
10 have to make them qualified to teach in certain subject areas or  
11 courses.

12        ~~B.~~ G. The annual report shall be published on the website of  
13 the State Department of Education and copies of the report shall be  
14 provided to ~~elected~~ members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives  
15 and the Oklahoma State Senate no later than January 15 of each year.

16        SECTION 2.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, as  
17 last amended by Section 162, Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
18 2025, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

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

- 22            1.        a.        holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an  
23                                institution whose accreditation is recognized by the  
24                                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 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 c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency  
21               or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an  
22               area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary  
23               Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined  
24               by the State Board of Education or a vocational-

1 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma  
2 Department of Career and Technology Education;

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

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

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

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

20 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school  
21 district in this state offering employment in the area of  
22 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that  
23 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by  
24 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 certificate of qualification" for the  
4 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder  
5 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes  
6 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 and by the  
18 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher  
19 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed  
20 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of  
21 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

22 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an  
23 Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard  
24 certification requirements within three (3) years; and

1        3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section  
2 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as  
3 other inductees.

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

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

21       F. Student teaching and a ~~pre-student~~ pre-student teaching field  
22 experience shall not be required of alternative placement program  
23 participants for standard certification.



1       ~~G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules~~  
2 ~~authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished~~  
3 ~~qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be~~  
4 ~~required to meet standard certification. A person employed as an~~  
5 ~~adjunct teacher pursuant to this subsection who does not hold a~~  
6 ~~valid certificate to teach shall not be considered a teacher as~~  
7 ~~defined by Section 1-116 of this title.~~

8       ~~H.~~ Each teacher education institution shall provide the  
9 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of  
10 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation  
11 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

12       ~~F.~~ H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not  
13 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any  
14 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in  
15 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs  
16 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,  
17 science, and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow  
18 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this  
19 section to be:

20       1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further  
21 qualification; and

22       2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for  
23 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section  
24 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year

1 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any  
2 person seeking standard certification through an alternative  
3 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses  
4 during regular semesters if offered.

5 ~~J.~~ I. The criteria specified in subsection ~~F~~ H of this section  
6 can be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or  
7 more institutions of higher education.

8 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

9 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
10 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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