

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 POLICY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION
4 FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 4427

5 By: Hilbert

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8 POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

9 An Act relating to adjunct teachers; amending Section
10 1, Chapter 210, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,
Section 6-122.12), which relates to adjunct teachers;
11 authorizing public and charter school district to
hire adjunct teachers who are persons with
distinguished qualifications in their field;
12 directing the State Board of Education to promulgate
rules defining distinguished qualifications;
13 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
14 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
15 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
16 pathway to become certified within two years;
clarifying status of adjunct who does not hold a
17 valid certificate to teach; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 162,
18 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
19 an emergency.

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

3 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 210, O.S.L.

4 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-122.12), is amended to read as
5 follows:

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

11 B. Adjunct teachers without a baccalaureate degree shall:

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

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

20 C. 1. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, adjunct
21 teachers shall not teach in core curriculum subjects, such as math,
22 English language arts, science, or social studies in pre-
23 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.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. 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

- b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education, professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree or a master of library science degree, from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal degrees, or
- c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has qualified work experience in a field that corresponds to an area of certification as determined by the State Board of Education, and
- d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined by the State Board of Education or a vocational-

technical certificate as 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 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 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 ~~prestudent~~ 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 I. 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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