

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1413

By: Hicks

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; directing public school
8 districts to provide certain notification regarding
9 teachers with emergency certificates; directing
notification to include certain information;
10 providing certain application; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 162,
11 Chapter 452, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section
6-122.3), which relates to requirements for
12 alternative certification; establishing clock hour
limitation for certain adjunct teachers; updating
statutory language; providing for codification;
13 providing an effective date; and declaring an
emergency.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-101.9 of Title 70, unless
19 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. A public school district in this state that employs a
21 teacher who has been issued an emergency certificate pursuant to
22 subsection G of Section 6-187 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes
23 shall provide written notification to the parents and legal
24 guardians of students who are in the teacher's class. The

notification shall include the name of the teacher issued the emergency certificate and the classes he or she teaches.

B. The requirements of subsection A of this section shall apply to any teacher who has been issued an emergency certificate and is employed by a school district upon the effective date of this act.

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~~ Secretary 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, c, and d 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.

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

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

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

11 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
12 district in this state offering employment in the area of
13 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
14 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
15 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
16 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
17 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
18 shall be considered a "~~valid~~ valid certificate of ~~qualification~~
19 qualification for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this
20 title, and the holder of the certificate shall be considered an
21 inductee for the purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

22 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
23 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
24 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district

1 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
2 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
3 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
4 placement program.

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

6 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
7 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
8 the ~~North Central Association of Colleges and Schools~~ Higher
9 Learning Commission, and by the ~~Oklahoma~~ Commission for ~~Teacher~~
10 ~~Preparation~~ Educational Quality and Accountability to offer teacher
11 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed
12 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
13 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

14 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an
15 ~~Oklahoma~~ institution of higher education in this state a plan for
16 meeting standard certification requirements within three (3) years;
17 and

18 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
19 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
20 other inductees.

21 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
22 requirements for certification and, upon demonstration by an
23 individual of specific competency in the subject area of
24 specialization, may grant a certificate to the individual. The

1 State Board of Education may establish other requirements necessary
2 to grant exceptions.

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

14 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
15 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
16 for standard certification.

17 G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
18 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
19 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
20 required to meet standard certification. A person employed as an
21 adjunct teacher pursuant to this subsection who does not hold a
22 valid certificate to teach shall not be considered a teacher as
23 defined by Section 1-116 of this title and shall be limited to two

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1 hundred seventy (270) clock hours of classroom teaching per
2 semester.

3 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
4 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation Educational Quality and
5 Accountability an annual report of information as specified by the
6 Commission regarding participation in the alternative placement
7 programs offered by the institution.

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

16 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
17 qualification; and

18 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
19 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
20 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
21 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any
22 person seeking standard certification through an alternative
23 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
24 during regular semesters if offered.

1 J. The criteria specified in subsection I of this section ~~can~~
2 may be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or
3 more institutions of higher education.

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

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

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10 60-2-2607

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