

1 TATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1781

By: McCall

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to student teachers; amending 70 O.S.
9 2011, Section 1-116, as last amended by Section 1,
10 Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section
11 1-116), which relates to school personnel
12 definitions; modifying term; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
13 Section 6-186, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter
14 5, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 6-186),
15 which relates to teacher education programs;
16 eliminating nonsalaried teacher internship
17 requirement; and declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as
20 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp.
21 2018, Section 1-116), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 1-116. As used in this title:

23 1. "Teacher" means any person who is employed to serve as
24 district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor,
librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher or in any other

1 instructional, supervisory or administrative capacity. The person
2 shall not be deemed qualified unless the person holds a valid
3 certificate issued by and in accordance with the rules of the State
4 Board of Education or the rules of the State Board of Career and
5 Technology Education, to perform the particular services for which
6 the person is employed;

7 2. "Superintendent" or "superintendent of schools" means the
8 executive officer of the board of education and the administrative
9 head of the school system of a district maintaining an accredited
10 school, provided the person holds an administrator's certificate
11 recognized by the State Board of Education;

12 3. "Principal" means any person other than a district
13 superintendent of schools having supervisory or administrative
14 authority over any school or school building having two or more
15 teachers. A teaching principal shall be a principal who devotes at
16 least one-half (1/2) the time school is in session to classroom
17 teaching. Teaching principals shall be required to hold
18 administrative certificates;

19 4. "Teachers" means, for purposes of complying with the State
20 Aid Law and other statutes, but not any other provision of law,
21 which apportion money on the basis of teaching units or the number
22 of teachers employed or qualified, all persons holding proper
23 certificates and connected in any capacity with the instruction of
24 pupils;

1 5. "Inductee" means any certified teacher who is employed in a
2 local school to serve as a classroom teacher under the guidance and
3 assistance of a mentor teacher or teachers;

4 6. "Student teacher" means any student who is enrolled in an
5 institution of higher learning approved by the State Board of
6 Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by the
7 institution of higher learning and a board of education of a school
8 district to perform practice teaching under the direction of a
9 regularly employed and certified teacher. A student teacher, while
10 serving ~~a non-salaried~~ an internship under the supervision of a
11 certified teacher, shall be accorded the same protection of the laws
12 as that accorded the certified teacher;

13 7. "School nurse" means a person employed full time by a board
14 of education who is a registered nurse licensed by the Oklahoma
15 State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education and is
16 certified the same as a teacher by the State Board of Education.
17 Provided, that any person who is employed as a full-time school
18 nurse in any school district in Oklahoma who is not registered on
19 the effective date of this act may continue to serve in the same
20 capacity; however, such person shall, under rules adopted by the
21 State Board of Education, attend classes in nursing and prepare to
22 become registered.

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1 A school nurse employed by a board of education shall be
2 accorded the same protection of laws and all other benefits accorded
3 a certified teacher; and

4 8. "Support employee" means an employee who provides those
5 services which are not performed by certified teachers, principals,
6 superintendents or administrators and which are necessary for the
7 efficient and satisfactory functioning of a school district.

8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as
9 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 5, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp.
10 2018, Section 6-186), is amended to read as follows:

11 Section 6-186. A. Criteria for the approval and accreditation
12 of teacher education programs in Oklahoma institutions of higher
13 education shall include, but not be limited to, substantial evidence
14 that persons who enter teacher education programs demonstrate:

15 1. Competency in the oral and written use of the English
16 language;

17 2. A minimum grade point average as established by the
18 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability; and

19 3. The ability to meet criteria established pursuant to the
20 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act at the completion of the teacher
21 education program and provide evidence of having worked with
22 children or youth in a variety of situations.

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1 Criteria shall also include a greater emphasis upon field work
2 in accredited schools by prospective teachers under the supervision
3 of higher education faculty.

4 B. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
5 shall work with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and
6 the various institutions of higher education in developing
7 guidelines for a paid teacher internship program which may be
8 offered at each institution for prospective teachers. The purpose
9 of each program shall be to provide mentorship and support for
10 prospective teachers. Students enrolled in a teacher education
11 program shall be eligible to participate in the program. Only
12 students who have completed the minimum ~~nonsalaried~~ teacher
13 internship requirement as established by the institution shall be
14 eligible to participate in the paid teacher internship program.

15 C. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature
16 that the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability work
17 with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various
18 institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby
19 full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional
20 development during their tenure at an institution of higher
21 education to ensure that the future teachers of this state are
22 taught by professional educators fully trained in their area of
23 expertise. Each approved or accredited program of teacher education
24 shall have a system for documenting and reporting the annual

1 professional development activities of all teacher education faculty
2 members. Faculty professional development reports shall be reviewed
3 by the Commission along with professional development activities as
4 a normal part of the accreditation process.

5 It is further declared to be the intent of the Legislature that
6 such professional development plans provide alternative means of
7 education including, but not limited to:

- 8 1. Professional development programs;
- 9 2. Higher education courses;
- 10 3. Exchange programs with public school classroom teachers,
11 administrators, and other school personnel; and
- 12 4. Programs whereby all full-time teacher education faculty
13 members directly involved in the teacher education process,
14 including all administrators of the teacher education program, are
15 required to serve in a state accredited public school for at least
16 ten (10) clock hours per school year in responsibilities related to
17 their respective teacher education teaching fields.

18 All public school systems shall participate in the programs
19 provided for in this subsection when needed.

20 D. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
21 shall adopt rules requiring specific improvements to strengthen the
22 screening of student applicants and field activity and placement as
23 set out in subsection A of this section. Such rules shall be

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1 reviewed and amended or readopted by the Commission at least once
2 every five (5) years.

3 E. To assist the Commission in setting specific requirements as
4 set out in subsections A and D of this section, the Commission shall
5 annually prepare a statistical report showing the percentage of
6 students from each of the Oklahoma institutions of higher education
7 who have successfully completed or who have failed the competency
8 examination for certification. The annual report shall show the
9 percentages for each institution of higher education and each
10 assessment area separately by student degree status and shall be
11 distributed annually to each member of the Commission for
12 Educational Quality and Accountability, the Oklahoma State Regents
13 for Higher Education, the governing board of each institution which
14 has an approved or state accredited teacher education program, the
15 State Board of Education, the State Board of Career and Technology
16 Education and the Legislature.

17 F. By November 1, 2017, the Commission shall adopt rules
18 requiring coursework or training in the use of digital and other
19 instructional technologies as a requisite for program accreditation.

20 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
21 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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