

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL NO. 217

By: Thompson of the Senate

and

6 Nollan of the House

7  
8  
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to teacher certification, defining  
11 terms; directing State Board of Education initiate  
12 certain pilot project; providing for applications  
13 process; specifying criteria for provider  
14 participation; requiring State Board of Education to  
15 ensure that providers make certain allowances;  
16 authorizing suspension or approval revocation of  
17 providers under certain instances; requiring certain  
18 notice and opportunities; providing eligibility for  
19 certification under certain conditions; requiring the  
20 certificate issuance under certain conditions;  
21 assigning responsibility for criminal history record  
22 check costs; requiring certain report; requiring  
23 reports include certain information; requiring the  
24 annual submission of certain evidence; authorizing  
the promulgation of rules; requiring pilot program  
end by certain date; and providing for codification.

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 6-133 of Title 70, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. As used in this section:

2       1. "Provider" means an eligible entity that seeks or has  
3 obtained approval of an alternative teacher preparation program  
4 consistent with this section; and

5       2. "Program" means content provided by a provider that leads  
6 toward licensure in a specific content area.

7       B. The State Board of Education shall identify providers to  
8 implement new and innovative pathways toward teacher certification  
9 on a pilot program basis. Providers seeking to participate in the  
10 pilot program shall submit applications to the State Board of  
11 Education.

12       C. A provider chosen by the State Board of Education to  
13 participate in the pilot program shall offer a program that:

14       1. Provides evidence and history of fiscal solvency, capacity,  
15 operation and program effectiveness;

16       2. Provides evidence of necessary infrastructure to provide  
17 accurate, timely and secure data for the purpose of admission,  
18 teacher candidate monitoring, testing and certification  
19 recommendations;

20       3. Has policies and procedures in place ensuring the security  
21 of teacher candidate records under applicable laws and regulations;

22       4. Has the instructional capacity or ability to obtain the  
23 instructional capacity to provide adequate instruction in accordance  
24 with this subsection;

1        5. Offers an instructional phase that provides intensive  
2 preparation before the teacher candidates assume classroom  
3 responsibilities;

4        6. Offers a research-based and results-oriented approach  
5 focused on best teaching practices to increase student achievement  
6 and growth measured against state academic standards;

7        7. Provides assessment, supervision and evaluation of teacher  
8 candidates to determine their specific needs throughout the program  
9 and to support efforts to successfully complete the program;

10       8. Provides intensive and ongoing professional development  
11 opportunities that accelerate a teacher candidate's professional  
12 growth, support student learning and provide a workplace  
13 orientation, professional staff development and mentoring;

14       9. Offers peer review focused on standards of professional  
15 practice and continuous professional growth; and

16       10. Provides a process to review a teacher candidate's final  
17 competency of required certification content standards that leads to  
18 a potential candidate being recommended for teacher certification in  
19 accordance with subsection F of this section.

20       D. The State Board of Education shall ensure that providers  
21 approved to participate in the pilot program allow teacher  
22 candidates to demonstrate pedagogy and content standard proficiency  
23 in school-based programs and through other nontraditional means.

24 Nontraditional means may include but not be limited to previous work

1 experience, teacher experience, educator evaluations, industry-  
2 recognized certifications and other essentially equivalent  
3 demonstrations.

4 E. If the State Board of Education determines that a provider  
5 fails to meet or is deficient in any of the requirements of this  
6 section, it may suspend or revoke the approval of the provider after  
7 providing notification of the deficiencies and an opportunity to  
8 remedy the deficiencies.

9 F. A teacher candidate that completes a program offered by an  
10 approved provider shall be eligible for certification, provided he  
11 or she meets the certification requirements set forth in Section 6-  
12 187 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes in the area of  
13 specialization for which certification is sought and is recommended  
14 for certification by the approved provider.

15 G. The State Board of Education shall issue a certificate to  
16 teach to any person who meets the requirements set forth in this  
17 section and who has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma  
18 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
19 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
20 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The  
21 person applying for the certificate shall be responsible for the  
22 cost of the criminal history records.

23 H. A provider shall submit a report to the State Department of  
24 Education after one year of operation showing the percentage of

1 teacher candidates who have completed the program and who have  
2 successfully completed or who have failed the competency  
3 examinations for certification and the provider's efforts to help  
4 candidates successfully pass the examinations. A provider shall  
5 annually submit evidence to the State Department of Education after  
6 the pilot year with evidence of the success of the program.

7 I. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to  
8 implement the provisions of this section.

9 J. The pilot program created in this section shall end no later  
10 than July 1, 2024.

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