

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 SENATE BILL 1125

By: Pugh

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70  
8 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as last amended by Section  
9 1, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019,  
10 Section 6-190), which relates to qualifications for  
11 certification; modifying qualifications to issue a  
12 certificate to teach to a person with a valid out-of-  
13 state certificate; updating references; providing an  
14 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as  
17 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp.  
18 2019, Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school  
20 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in  
21 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified to teach by  
22 the State Board of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher  
23 Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for by Section 6-101  
24 of this title and by other law.

B. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person  
who:

1           1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program  
2 required by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
3 Accountability;

4           2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher  
5 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education,

6           3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the  
7 Board;

8           4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency  
9 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission,

10          5. Has successfully completed the competency examination  
11 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

12          6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a  
13 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State  
14 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history  
15 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
16 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the  
17 Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective  
18 until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history  
19 record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible  
20 for the cost of the criminal history records.

21          C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person  
22 who:

23           1. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets the requirements  
24 set forth in subsection ~~F~~ G of this section;

1           2. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional  
2 Teaching Standards;

3           3. Holds an out-of-country certificate and meets the  
4 requirements set forth in subsection F of this section; or

5           4. Has successfully completed a competency examination used in  
6 the majority of other states or comparable customized exam and meets  
7 the requirements set forth in subsection G H of this section.

8           D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial  
9 Oklahoma certification shall have on file with the Board a current  
10 Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
11 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
12 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon  
13 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue  
14 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of  
15 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person  
16 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the  
17 criminal history records.

18           E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to  
19 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the  
20 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional  
21 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher  
22 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

23           F. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person  
24 who holds a valid ~~out-of-state certificate or to a person who holds~~

1 ~~a valid~~ out-of-country certificate and meets any requirements  
2 established by the Board. The certificate to teach shall only be  
3 for those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the  
4 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the ~~out-of-state or~~  
5 out-of-country certificate.

6 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
7 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations  
8 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the  
9 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the ~~out-of-state or~~  
10 out-of-country certificate.

11 3. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
12 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma  
13 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
14 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
15 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon  
16 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may  
17 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt  
18 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.  
19 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the  
20 cost of the criminal history record checks.

21 4. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing a process by  
22 which out-of-country certificates will be reviewed and evaluated for  
23 purposes of awarding a certificate to teach pursuant to this  
24 subsection.

1           G. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person  
2 who holds a valid out-of-state certificate. The certificate to  
3 teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most  
4 closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on  
5 the out-of-state certificate.

6           2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
7 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations  
8 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the  
9 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state  
10 certificate.

11           3. A person who meets the requirements of this subsection shall  
12 have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history  
13 record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well  
14 as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section  
15 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the  
16 Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may issue a  
17 temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the  
18 national fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The  
19 person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost  
20 of the criminal history record checks.

21           H. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person  
22 who has successfully completed a competency exam used in a majority  
23 of the other states. The certificate to teach shall only be for  
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1 those subject areas and grade levels that correspond with a  
2 certification area used in Oklahoma.

3 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
4 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma  
5 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
6 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
7 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon  
8 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may  
9 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt  
10 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.  
11 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the  
12 cost of the criminal history record checks.

13 ~~H.~~ I. The Board shall issue a lead teaching certificate to any  
14 person who upon application:

15 1. Has successfully completed the requirements of this  
16 subsection;

17 2. Has a minimum of five (5) years of experience as a teacher;

18 3. Participates in a meaningful individualized program of  
19 professional development, as provided for in Section 6-101.10 of  
20 this title;

21 4. Has earned a "highly effective" or "superior" rating  
22 pursuant to Section 6-101.16 of this title; and  
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1           5. May have a teaching load of not more than seventy-five  
2 percent (75%) student instruction to allow the teacher to mentor  
3 other teachers.

4           ~~F.~~ J. 1. The Board shall issue a master teaching certificate  
5 to any person who upon application:

6           a. has successfully completed the requirements of this  
7 subsection,

8           b. has a minimum of seven (7) years of experience as a  
9 teacher, and

10          c. (1) has earned a "superior" rating pursuant to  
11 Section 6-101.16 of this title, or

12           (2) has earned a "highly effective" rating pursuant  
13 to Section 6-101.16 of this title and holds or  
14 has held a National Board certification from the  
15 National Board for Professional Teaching  
16 Standards.

17          2. Teachers with a master teaching certificate may assume  
18 leadership roles that include but are not limited to:

19          a. the planning and delivery of professional development  
20 activities designed to improve instructional  
21 strategies,

22          b. the facilitation of an instructional leadership team  
23 within the building or school district in which the  
24 lead teacher is assigned, and  
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1 c. the mentoring of other teachers and participation in  
2 evaluations of other teachers.

3 3. Teachers with a master teaching certificate may have a  
4 teaching load of not more than fifty percent (50%) student  
5 instruction to allow the lead teacher to spend time on:

6 a. co-teaching,

7 b. co-planning,

8 c. peer reviews, and

9 d. other duties mutually agreed upon by the

10 superintendent and the master teacher, and may be used

11 to satisfy the qualitative evaluation component for

12 teachers as required by Section 6-101.16 of this title

13 by performing the duties set forth in this paragraph.

14 ~~J.~~ K. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
15 implement a renewal schedule and associated fees for lead and master  
16 teaching certificates. The rules shall allow a teacher that no  
17 longer meets the requirements of a lead or master teaching  
18 certificate to make application for the standard teaching  
19 certificate.

20 ~~K.~~ L. The terms of the contracts issued to those holding lead  
21 and master teaching certificates shall include the following:

22 1. Lead: an additional ten (10) days to be used to strengthen  
23 instructional leadership. A person with a lead teaching certificate  
24 shall receive an annual salary supplement of at least Three Thousand  
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1 Dollars (\$3,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever  
2 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies  
3 pursuant to Section 18-114.14 of this title; and

4 2. Master: an additional fifteen (15) days to be used to  
5 strengthen leadership. A person with a master teaching certificate  
6 shall receive an annual salary supplement of at least Five Thousand  
7 Dollars (\$5,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever  
8 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies  
9 pursuant to Section 18-114.14 of this title.

10 If a person with a lead or master teaching certificate changes  
11 school districts during the life of the certificate, the terms of  
12 the contracts required in this subsection shall be subject to  
13 approval by the new employing school district.

14 ~~H.~~ M. 1. Any person who is eligible for a lead or master  
15 teaching certificate described in this section shall make  
16 application for the following school year with the State Board of  
17 Education. The application shall include a recommendation from the  
18 local board of education and determination that the applicant has  
19 met the statutory criteria. In reviewing an application, the local  
20 school board of education and the superintendent shall consider the  
21 ability of the school district to fulfill the additional  
22 requirements described in subsections ~~H and~~ I and J of this section  
23 before making a recommendation to the State Board of Education.

1           2. The State Department of Education shall develop an  
2 application to implement the provisions of this subsection and make  
3 it available to school districts.

4           ~~M.~~ N. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the Department  
5 shall make the teaching certificates provided for in this section  
6 available for any person who has received a recommendation from  
7 their local board of education and who meets the eligibility  
8 criteria.

9           ~~N.~~ O. For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, the  
10 Department shall identify school districts to implement the teaching  
11 certificates provided for in this section on a pilot program basis  
12 with the assistance of public-private partnerships, funding from  
13 philanthropic organizations or federal grants.

14           ~~O.~~ P. The Department shall seek funding necessary for the  
15 administration of this section. If funding for the administration  
16 of the teaching certificates listed in ~~paragraphs H and~~ subsections  
17 I and J is not available, the Department shall not be required to  
18 fulfill the requirements listed in subsections ~~K, L, M and~~ N and O  
19 of ~~the~~ this section.

20           ~~P.~~ Q. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to  
21 implement the provisions of this act.

22           SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2020.

23           SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
24 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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