

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 217

By: Thompson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teacher certification; providing  
8 definitions; directing the State Department of  
9 Education to identify certain school districts to  
10 implement certain teacher certification pilot  
11 program; providing eligibility criteria; establishing  
12 requirements for programs to be offered; directing  
13 the State Department of Education to ensure that  
14 providers allow teacher candidates to demonstrate  
15 certain proficiency through certain means; allowing  
16 the State Department of Education to suspend or  
17 revoke approval of a provider if certain conditions  
18 are met; allowing certain teacher candidates to be  
19 eligible for certification if they pass certain  
20 examinations; requiring submission of certain report;  
21 providing for contents of report; providing for  
22 promulgation of rules; providing for codification;  
23 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
24 emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-133 of Title 70, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. As used in this section:  
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1 1. "Provider" means an eligible entity that seeks or has  
2 obtained approval of an alternative teacher preparation program  
3 consistent with this section; and

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

6 B. The State Department of Education shall identify school  
7 districts to implement alternative pathways toward teacher  
8 certification on a pilot program basis. School districts seeking to  
9 participate in the pilot program shall submit applications to the  
10 State Department of Education. An eligible provider shall:

11 1. Provide evidence and history of fiscal solvency, capacity  
12 and operation;

13 2. Provide evidence of necessary infrastructure to provide  
14 accurate, timely and secure data for the purpose of admission,  
15 teacher candidate monitoring, testing, criminal history record  
16 checks and certification recommendations;

17 3. Have policies and procedures in place ensuring the security  
18 of teacher candidate records under the federal Family Educational  
19 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA); and

20 4. Have the instructional capacity or ability to obtain the  
21 instructional capacity to provide adequate instruction in accordance  
22 with subsection C of this section.

23 C. A provider chosen by the State Department of Education to  
24 participate in the pilot program shall offer a program that:

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

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

7           3. 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          4. 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          5. Offers peer review focused on standards of professional  
15 practice and continuous professional growth; and

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

20          D. The State Department of Education shall ensure that  
21 providers 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 Department of Education determines that a  
5 provider fails to meet or is deficient in any of the requirements of  
6 this section, it may suspend or revoke the approval of the provider  
7 after providing notification of the deficiencies and an opportunity  
8 to 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 passes the general education and subject area portions of the  
12 competency examination required in Section 6-187 of Title 70 of the  
13 Oklahoma Statutes in the area of specialization for which  
14 certification is sought.

15 G. A provider shall submit a report to the State Department of  
16 Education after one year of operation showing the percentage of  
17 teacher candidates who have completed the program and who have  
18 successfully completed or who have failed the competency  
19 examinations for certification.

20 H. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to  
21 implement the provisions of this section.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019.

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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