

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE BILL 1990

By: Nollan

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teacher certification; providing definitions; directing State Department of Education to identify school districts for alternative teacher certification pilot program; listing eligibility criteria for providers; establishing requirements for programs to be offered; directing Department to ensure providers allow teacher candidates to demonstrate certain proficiency; permitting Department to suspend or revoke approval of a provider in certain cases; granting certification eligibility for teacher candidates who complete the program and pass certain examinations; directing provider to submit report to Department; providing for contents of report; requiring State Board of Education to promulgate rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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:

A. As used in this section:

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

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

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

8        1. Provide evidence and history of fiscal solvency, capacity  
9 and operation;

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

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

17       4. Have the instructional capacity or ability to obtain the  
18 instructional capacity to provide adequate instruction in accordance  
19 with subsection C of this section.

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

22       1. Offers an instructional phase that provides intensive  
23 preparation before the teacher candidates assume classroom  
24 responsibilities;

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

4        3. Provides assessment, supervision and evaluation of teacher  
5 candidates to determine their specific needs throughout the program  
6 and to support efforts to successfully complete the program;

7        4. Provides intensive and ongoing professional development  
8 opportunities that accelerate a teacher candidate's professional  
9 growth, support student learning and offer a workplace orientation,  
10 professional staff development and mentoring;

11       5. Offers peer review focused on standards of professional  
12 practice and continuous professional growth; and

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

17       D. The State Department of Education shall ensure that  
18 providers approved to participate in the pilot program allow teacher  
19 candidates to demonstrate pedagogy and content standards proficiency  
20 in school-based programs and through other nontraditional means.  
21 Nontraditional means may include but not be limited to previous work  
22 experience, teacher experience, educator evaluations, industry-  
23 recognized certifications and other essentially equivalent  
24 demonstrations.

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

6 F. A teacher candidate who completes a program offered by an  
7 approved provider shall be eligible for certification, provided he  
8 or she passes the general education and subject area portions of the  
9 competency examination required in Section 6-187 of Title 70 of the  
10 Oklahoma Statutes in the area of specialization for which  
11 certification is sought.

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

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

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

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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