

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE BILL 1412

By: Waldron

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 6-190), which relates to teacher certification; modifying qualifications for lead teaching certificate; adjusting qualifications for master teaching certificate; and providing an effective date.

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

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

Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified to teach by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for by Section 6-101 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~~7;~~i;

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~~7;~~i;

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 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 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 has successfully completed a competency exam used in a majority
3 of the other states. The certificate to teach shall only be for
4 those subject areas and grade levels that correspond with a
5 certification area used in Oklahoma.

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

16 H. The Board shall issue a lead teaching certificate to any
17 person who upon application:

18 1. Has successfully completed the requirements of this
19 subsection;

20 2. Has a minimum of ~~five (5)~~ three (3) years of experience as a
21 certified teacher or a minimum of five (5) years of experience as a
22 teacher with an alternative placement teaching certificate;
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1 3. Participates in a meaningful individualized program of
2 professional development, as provided for in Section 6-101.10 of
3 this title;

4 4. Has earned a "highly effective" or "superior" rating
5 pursuant to Section 6-101.16 of this title; and

6 5. May have a teaching load of not more than seventy-five
7 percent (75%) student instruction to allow the teacher to mentor
8 other teachers.

9 I. 1. The Board shall issue a master teaching certificate to
10 any person who upon application:

11 a. has successfully completed the requirements of this
12 subsection,

13 b. has a minimum of ~~seven (7)~~ five (5) years of
14 experience as a certified teacher or a minimum of
15 seven (7) years of experience as a teacher with an
16 alternative placement teaching certificate, and

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

19 (2) has earned a "highly effective" rating pursuant
20 to Section 6-101.16 of this title and holds or
21 has held a National Board certification from the
22 National Board for Professional Teaching
23 Standards.
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1 2. Teachers with a master teaching certificate may assume
2 leadership roles that include but are not limited to:

- 3 a. the planning and delivery of professional development
4 activities designed to improve instructional
5 strategies,
- 6 b. the facilitation of an instructional leadership team
7 within the building or school district in which the
8 lead teacher is assigned, and
- 9 c. the mentoring of other teachers and participation in
10 evaluations of other teachers.

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

- 14 a. co-teaching,
- 15 b. co-planning,
- 16 c. peer reviews, and
- 17 d. other duties mutually agreed upon by the
18 superintendent and the master teacher, and may be used
19 to satisfy the qualitative evaluation component for
20 teachers as required by Section 6-101.16 of this title
21 by performing the duties set forth in this paragraph.

22 J. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
23 a renewal schedule and associated fees for lead and master teaching
24 certificates. The rules shall allow a teacher that no longer meets

1 the requirements of a lead or master teaching certificate to make
2 application for the standard teaching certificate.

3 K. The terms of the contracts issued to those holding lead and
4 master teaching certificates shall include the following:

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

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

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

21 L. 1. Any person who is eligible for a lead or master teaching
22 certificate described in this section shall make application for the
23 following school year with the State Board of Education. The
24 application shall include a recommendation from the local board of

1 education and determination that the applicant has met the statutory
2 criteria. In reviewing an application, the local school board of
3 education and the superintendent shall consider the ability of the
4 school district to fulfill the additional requirements described in
5 subsections H and I of this section before making a recommendation
6 to the State Board of Education.

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

10 M. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the Department shall
11 make the teaching certificates provided for in this section
12 available for any person who has received a recommendation from
13 their local board of education and who meets the eligibility
14 criteria.

15 N. For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, the Department
16 shall identify school districts to implement the teaching
17 certificates provided for in this section on a pilot program basis
18 with the assistance of public-private partnerships, funding from
19 philanthropic organizations or federal grants.

20 O. The Department shall seek funding necessary for the
21 administration of this section. If funding for the administration
22 of the teaching certificates listed in paragraphs H and I is not
23 available, the Department shall not be required to fulfill the
24 requirements listed in subsections K, L, M and N of the section.

1 P. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
2 implement the provisions of this act.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.
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