

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 3658

By: Sterling, Phillips, Talley,  
and Randleman of the House

3 and

4 Pemberton and Hicks of the  
5 Senate

6  
7  
8 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70  
9 O.S. 2021, Sections 6-122.3 and 6-122.11, which  
10 relate to alternative teacher certification; removing  
11 requirement to pass the general education portion of  
12 the competency examination; deleting general  
13 education examination requirement; amending 70 O.S.  
14 2021, Sections 6-182 and 6-187, which relate to the  
15 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; modifying  
16 definition for competency examination; removing  
17 requirement to pass the general education portion of  
18 the competency examination; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
19 Section 6-189.2, which relates to school psychologist  
20 or psychometrist certification; striking reference to  
21 the general education portion of the competency  
22 examination; and declaring an emergency.

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

24 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, is  
amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an  
alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes  
application to the Board and meets the following criteria:



1 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary  
2 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined  
3 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-  
4 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma  
5 Department of Career and Technology Education;

6 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by  
7 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)  
8 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject  
9 matter and the number of clock or semester hours required for the  
10 professional education component for each person making application  
11 for an alternative placement teaching certificate based on the  
12 criteria of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

13 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of  
14 six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours and a maximum of  
15 eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock  
16 hours for the professional education component.

17 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all  
18 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of  
19 subsection E of this section;

20 3. Has passed the ~~general education and subject area portions~~  
21 portion of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of  
22 this title in the area of specialization for which certification is  
23 sought; and  
24

1           4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school  
2 district in this state offering employment in the area of  
3 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that  
4 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by  
5 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek  
6 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in  
7 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection  
8 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the  
9 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder  
10 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes  
11 of Section 6-195 of this title.

12           B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be  
13 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon  
14 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district  
15 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of  
16 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution  
17 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative  
18 placement program.

19           C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

20           1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education  
21 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,  
22 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the  
23 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher  
24 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed

1 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of  
2 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

3 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an  
4 Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard  
5 certification requirements within three (3) years; and

6 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section  
7 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as  
8 other inductees.

9 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the  
10 requirements for certification and, upon demonstration by an  
11 individual of specific competency in the subject area of  
12 specialization, may grant a certificate to the individual. The  
13 State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant  
14 exceptions.

15 E. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
16 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an  
17 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination  
18 for initial certification in a field which does not require an  
19 advanced degree pursuant to this section if the candidate has an  
20 advanced degree in a subject that is substantially comparable to the  
21 content assessed on a subject area examination. The degree shall be  
22 from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting  
23 agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department

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1 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the  
2 necessary information to determine comparability.

3 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience  
4 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants  
5 for standard certification.

6 G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
7 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished  
8 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be  
9 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be  
10 limited to two hundred seventy (270) clock hours of classroom  
11 teaching per semester.

12 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the  
13 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of  
14 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation  
15 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

16 I. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not  
17 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any  
18 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in  
19 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs  
20 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,  
21 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow  
22 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this  
23 section to be:

24

1 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further  
2 qualification; and

3 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for  
4 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section  
5 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year  
6 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any  
7 person seeking standard certification through an alternative  
8 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses  
9 during regular semesters if offered.

10 J. The criteria specified in subsection I of this section can  
11 be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more  
12 institutions of higher education.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.11, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 6-122.11 Notwithstanding any other provision of the  
16 law, the State Board of Education shall issue a one-year alternative  
17 teacher certificate, renewable for up to three (3) years, to teach  
18 early childhood education or elementary education to any qualified  
19 candidate who:

20 1. a. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as  
21 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,  
22 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree  
23 or a master of library science degree, from an  
24 institution accredited by a national or regional

1 accrediting agency which is recognized by the  
2 Secretary of the United States Department of  
3 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
4 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal  
5 degrees, or

- 6 b. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an  
7 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the  
8 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has  
9 two (2) years post-degree-completion qualified work  
10 experience in a field that corresponds to early  
11 childhood education or elementary education; and

12 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by  
13 means of the early childhood and elementary education alternative  
14 certification program in not more than three (3) years and has:

- 15 a. within the first year satisfactorily completed six (6)  
16 credit hours in classroom management and reading  
17 instruction from an educator preparation program  
18 approved and accredited by the Commission for  
19 Educational Quality and Accountability, completed the  
20 required State Department of Education approved  
21 training on cognitive science of how students learn to  
22 read and participated in a yearlong mentorship or  
23 instructional coaching in reading and classroom  
24 management provided by the employing school district



1 prior to the renewal of the provisional certificate  
2 for a second year,

3 b. within the second year satisfactorily completed six  
4 (6) credit hours in child development and math  
5 instruction from an educator preparation program  
6 approved and accredited by the Commission for  
7 Educational Quality and Accountability, participated  
8 in an additional yearlong mentorship and/or  
9 instructional coaching in child development and math  
10 instruction provided by the employing school district  
11 prior to the renewal of the provisional certificate  
12 for a third year, and successfully completed the  
13 ~~general education and subject area portions~~ portion of  
14 the competency examination required in Section 6-187  
15 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes in the area of  
16 specialization for which certification is sought, and

17 c. within the third year satisfactorily completed six (6)  
18 additional credit hours of professional education  
19 coursework from an educator preparation program  
20 approved and accredited by the Commission for  
21 Educational Quality and Accountability, participated  
22 in an additional yearlong mentorship and/or  
23 instructional coaching provided by the employing  
24 school district, and successfully passed the

1 professional knowledge portions of the competency  
2 examination required in Section 6-187 of Title 70 of  
3 the Oklahoma Statutes in the area of specialization  
4 for which certification is sought.

5 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-182, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

8 1. "Board" means the State Board of Education;

9 2. "Commission" means the Commission for Educational Quality  
10 and Accountability;

11 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
12 Education;

13 4. "Professional development program" means the program  
14 mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous  
15 improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of  
16 this state;

17 5. "Teacher education professional development committee" means  
18 the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the  
19 continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in  
20 teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

21 6. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

22 7. "Induction" means a program that provides support,  
23 mentorship and coaching to educators at the beginning of their  
24 careers or as they transition to new roles within a school or

1 district. Induction programs work with inductees to assist in all  
2 matters concerning classroom management and professional development  
3 for that teacher. Induction programs may involve a committee of one  
4 or more mentor teachers, the principal or an assistant principal of  
5 the employing school, one or more administrators designated by the  
6 school district board of education, a teacher educator in a college  
7 or school of education of an institution of higher education or an  
8 educator in a department or school outside the institution's teacher  
9 education unit;

10 8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-  
11 116 of this title;

12 9. "Inductee" means any certified teacher who is employed in an  
13 accredited school to serve as a teacher and the school district has  
14 elected to place under the guidance and assistance of a mentor  
15 teacher or induction committee. Inductees shall include those  
16 individuals having completed the program of the college or school of  
17 education of the accredited institution of higher education from  
18 which the person has been graduated, and shall have successfully  
19 completed the competency examination in areas of approval in which  
20 the inductee seeks certification, those individuals eligible for the  
21 alternative placement teaching certificate according to Section 6-  
22 122.3 of this title, and those individuals issued an emergency or  
23 provisional certificate according to Section 6-187 of this title.  
24 All teachers working in a new role, including classroom teachers

1 transitioning to a new role, shall be considered inductees for  
2 purposes of induction programs;

3 10. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been issued a  
4 certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher  
5 Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

6 11. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher who has been appointed  
7 to provide guidance, support, coaching and assistance to an inductee  
8 employed by the school district. A mentor teacher shall be a  
9 current or former classroom teacher and have a minimum of two (2)  
10 years of classroom teaching experience as a certified teacher.

11 When possible, a mentor teacher shall have participated in  
12 mentor teacher professional development and have expertise in the  
13 teaching field of the inductee;

14 12. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is  
15 employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher  
16 education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the  
17 preparation of education personnel; and

18 13. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in  
19 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for certification as a teacher  
20 and shall consist of tests over ~~general education~~, professional  
21 education and subject areas as defined by the Commission for  
22 Educational Quality and Accountability.

23 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency  
2 examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
3 Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a competency examination  
4 shall be adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
5 Accountability for the ~~general education~~, professional education and  
6 various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring  
7 academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or  
8 teacher in the subject area the person is seeking certification to  
9 teach which shall also include certification as an administrator, as  
10 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

11 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,  
12 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the  
13 confidentiality of examinations.

14 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for certification  
15 until successfully completing the competency examination except  
16 those candidates who make application to the State Board and meet  
17 the criteria for the alternative placement program pursuant to  
18 Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to  
19 areas of approval in which the certified teacher has successfully  
20 completed the examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection  
21 C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in which a  
22 teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment  
23 or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject  
24 area test.

1 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the ~~general education,~~  
2 professional education or subject area portions of the examination  
3 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

4 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a  
5 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the  
6 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully  
7 completed the subject area portion of the examination.

8 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,  
9 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education  
10 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program  
11 approved by the Commission.

12 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may  
13 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the  
14 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the  
15 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher  
16 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified  
17 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in  
18 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area  
19 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who  
20 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited  
21 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or  
22 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law  
23 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the  
24 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through

1 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes  
2 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers  
3 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the  
4 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the  
5 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any special  
6 education teacher who has not completed a Commission-approved  
7 teacher education program in elementary education or early childhood  
8 education but who has successfully completed the subject area  
9 portion of the examination may be certified in elementary education  
10 or early childhood education for the purpose of providing direct  
11 instruction and serving as the teacher of record for grading  
12 purposes in special education settings only.

13 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at  
14 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the  
15 Commission.

16 E. If a teacher candidate or teacher is a non-native-English  
17 speaker, the Commission shall offer the subject area competency  
18 examination in the native language of the teacher candidate or  
19 teacher only if the teacher candidate or teacher is employed or has  
20 been offered employment by a school district as a teacher in a  
21 foreign language immersion program offered by the school district.  
22 If a non-native-English speaker who has received certification in a  
23 subject area after taking the subject area competency examination in  
24 the native language of the speaker seeks to add a certification area

1 in the future and that person is no longer employed as a teacher in  
2 a foreign language immersion program, the examination for the  
3 additional certification area shall be taken in English. The State  
4 Board of Education shall issue a restricted license or certificate  
5 to any teacher who has completed a subject area competency  
6 examination in the native language of the teacher as provided for in  
7 this subsection restricting the teacher to teaching only in a  
8 foreign language immersion program.

9 F. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
10 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an  
11 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination  
12 for initial certification in a field which does not require an  
13 advanced degree if the candidate has an advanced degree in a subject  
14 that is substantially comparable to the content assessed on a  
15 subject area examination. The advanced degree shall be from an  
16 institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency  
17 which is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department  
18 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the  
19 necessary information to determine comparability.

20 G. 1. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall  
21 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an  
22 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,  
23 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district  
24 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a



1 provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is  
2 unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district  
3 shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or  
4 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic  
5 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives  
6 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an  
7 individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State  
8 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

9 2. The State Board of Education may renew the emergency or  
10 provisional certificate of an individual who has been employed by a  
11 school district board of education for at least two (2) years if the  
12 following criteria are met:

- 13 a. the individual has been granted an emergency or  
14 provisional certificate pursuant to paragraph 1 of  
15 this subsection for two (2) years,
- 16 b. the individual has not successfully completed the  
17 competency examinations required by this section,
- 18 c. the individual submits a portfolio of his or her work  
19 to the State Board of Education, which shall include  
20 evidence of progress toward standard certification,
- 21 d. the employing school district board of education  
22 agrees to renew the individual's contract to teach for  
23 the ensuing fiscal year, and

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1 e. the superintendent of the employing school district  
2 submits to the State Board of Education the reason the  
3 emergency or provisional certificate should be renewed  
4 and provides evidence of the district's inability to  
5 hire a teacher who holds a standard certificate.

6 3. Individuals employed by a school district under an emergency  
7 or provisional certificate shall not be considered career teachers  
8 and therefore not entitled to the protections of the Teacher Due  
9 Process Act of 1990.

10 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189.2, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 6-189.2 A. Any person seeking certification as a  
13 school psychologist or school psychometrist shall be exempt from the  
14 requirement to successfully complete the ~~general education and~~  
15 professional education ~~portions~~ portion of the competency  
16 examination required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-190 of this  
17 title.

18 B. Any person certified as a school psychologist or school  
19 psychometrist pursuant to a substitution or exemption as provided in  
20 this section shall be required to complete all portions of the  
21 competency examination as required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-  
22 190 of this title if such person seeks to add certification in  
23 another subject in the future.

