

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE BILL 1375

By: Bullard

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
8 Sections 6-122.3, 6-122.6, 6-122.7, 6-122.8, 6-122.9,
9 6-122.10, and 6-122.11, which relate to alternative
10 teacher certification; updating references; modifying
11 reference to alternative competency examination;
12 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-182, which relates
13 to definitions under the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation
14 Act; modifying definitions; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
15 Sections 6-184 and 6-186, which relate to approval of
16 teacher education programs; updating references;
17 removing outdated language; modifying reference to
18 alternative competency examination; amending 70 O.S.
19 2021, Section 6-187, as last amended by Section 1,
20 Chapter 319, O.S.L. 2021, which relates to teacher
21 competency examinations; exempting teacher candidates
22 who have graduated from certain program after certain
23 date from being required to take certain
24 examinations; requiring completion of certain portion
of the alternative competency examination for
certification in certain additional subject area;
requiring completion of alternative competency
examination for certain teacher candidates; amending
70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187A, which relates to refund
of certain examination fee; updating reference;
amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187B, which relates
to the Teacher Certification Scholarship Program;
updating purpose of program; updating statutory
reference; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189,
which relates to a teacher licensure and
certification system; updating references; removing
requirement for certain individuals to pass certain
competency examination; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
Section 6-189.1, which relates to certification of
certain mathematics teachers; removing outdated
language; modifying requirement for teacher candidate

1 who graduated from certain program to be certified in
2 middle level mathematics; updating references;
3 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189.2, which relates
4 to certification of school psychologist or
5 psychometrist; updating exemption from certain
6 examinations; updating reference; amending 70 O.S.
7 2021, Section 6-190, which relates to school district
8 contracting with teachers; removing requirement for
9 certain teacher candidates who graduated from certain
10 program to take certain examination; amending 70 O.S.
11 2021, Section 6-191, which relates to the Teachers'
12 Competency Examination Revolving Fund; updating
13 references; renaming fund; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
14 Section 6-195.1, which relates to continuing
15 education for mathematics teachers; modifying
16 legislative intent regarding purpose of program;
17 updating reference; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-
18 197, which relates to applicability of certain
19 certification requirements; updating references;
20 removing outdated language; providing an effective
21 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has attained a retention grade point average of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

1 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
2 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
3 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree,
4 or a master of library science degree, from an
5 institution accredited by a national or regional
6 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
7 Secretary of the United States Department of
8 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
9 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
10 degrees, or

11 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
12 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
13 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
14 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
15 to an area of certification as determined by the State
16 Board of Education, and

17 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b,
18 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency
19 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an
20 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
21 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
22 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-
23 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
24 Department of Career and Technology Education;

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

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

12 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
13 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
14 subsection E of this section;

15 3. Has passed the general education and subject area portions
16 of the alternative competency examination required in Section 6-187
17 of this title in the area of specialization for which certification
18 is sought; and

19 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
20 district in this state offering employment in the area of
21 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
22 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
23 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
24 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in

1 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
2 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
3 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
4 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes
5 of Section 6-195 of this title.

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

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

14 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
15 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
16 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and by the
17 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
18 Educational Quality and Accountability to offer teacher education
19 programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed courses
20 necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of the
21 program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

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

1 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
2 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
3 other inductees.

4 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
5 requirements for certification and, upon demonstration by an
6 individual of specific competency in the subject area of
7 specialization, may grant a certificate to the individual. The
8 State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant
9 exceptions.

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

22 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
23 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
24 for standard certification.

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

7 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
8 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
9 Educational Quality and Accountability an annual report of
10 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
11 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

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

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

22 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
23 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
24 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year

1 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any
2 person seeking standard certification through an alternative
3 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
4 during regular semesters if offered.

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

8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.6, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 6-122.6. A. The State Board of Education shall issue a
11 one-year, nonrenewable secondary or middle level certificate to
12 teach to any person who has attained certification by an alternative
13 teacher certification organization as set forth in subsection C of
14 this section and has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
15 criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
16 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
17 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
18 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue
19 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of
20 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person
21 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the
22 criminal history records.

23 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6-195 of this
24 title, teachers issued a certificate pursuant to this section shall

1 not be subject to the requirements of the residency program, but
2 shall participate in the mentoring program provided by the
3 alternative teacher certification organization as set forth in
4 subsection C of this section. Upon successful completion of such
5 mentoring program, the teacher shall be issued a certificate to
6 teach by the State Board of Education after completion of the
7 application and payment of the certification fee as prescribed by
8 the State Board of Education.

9 C. For purposes of this section, the State Board of Education
10 shall identify an alternative teacher certification organization
11 that was founded with grant funding from the United States
12 Department of Education and that developed the Passport to Teaching
13 program, which is a certification program designed for professionals
14 who want to change careers and become teachers. The program shall
15 require candidates to hold a bachelor's degree, pass a the
16 professional teaching knowledge exam, pass a and subject area exam,
17 portions of the alternative competency examination and pass a
18 background check. The organization shall provide candidates with
19 access to workshops, an experienced teacher-advisor, and optional
20 access to comprehensive subject matter refresher courses. The
21 organization shall also provide an intensive mentoring and induction
22 program.

23 D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
24 the provisions of this section.

1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.7, is

2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 6-122.7. A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the
4 law, the State Board of Education shall issue a one-year provisional
5 certificate to teach in the area of mild-moderate disabilities,
6 severe-profound disabilities, or comprehensive special education to
7 any qualified candidate who has:

8 1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited
9 institution of higher education;

10 2. Been recommended for a certificate by a school district
11 board of education or an accredited institution of higher education;

12 3. Satisfactorily completed a one-hundred-fifty-clock-hour
13 special education program prescribed by the Board; and

14 4. On file with the Board a national criminal history record
15 check as required pursuant to Section 5-142 of this title. The
16 individual applying for a provisional certificate shall be
17 responsible for the cost of the national criminal history record
18 check.

19 B. The one-year provisional certificate issued pursuant to this
20 section may be renewed for two (2) additional periods of one-year
21 each upon proof from an accredited institution of higher education
22 that the individual has successfully completed at least six (6)
23 credit hours of prescribed coursework during the previous year in a
24 nontraditional route to certification program in either mild-

1 moderate or severe-profound disabilities or toward a master's degree
2 in special education.

3 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board
4 of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-
5 moderate disabilities, severe-profound disabilities, or
6 comprehensive special education to any individual who has:

7 1. Been issued one or more provisional certificates pursuant to
8 this section;

9 2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework of a
10 nontraditional route to certification program in either mild-
11 moderate or severe-profound disabilities or a master's degree in
12 special education from an accredited institution of higher education
13 within three (3) years of issuance of the original provisional
14 certificate and any examinations required to obtain a standard
15 certificate in mild-moderate disabilities, severe-profound
16 disabilities, or comprehensive special education;

17 3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area portion
18 of the alternative competency examination as required pursuant to
19 Section 6-187 of this title; and

20 4. Submitted an application and payment of the required
21 certification fee.

22 D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual
23 who holds a current provisional certificate pursuant to subsection A
24 or B of this section or a current standard certificate pursuant to

1 subsection C of this section may satisfy the highly qualified
2 teacher requirement for early childhood education or elementary
3 education by successful completion of the early childhood education
4 or elementary education examinations.

5 E. To obtain standard certification in early childhood
6 education or elementary education, an individual shall complete an
7 appropriate teacher education program approved by the ~~Oklahoma~~
8 ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational
9 Quality and Accountability.

10 F. Nothing in this section shall change the requirements an
11 individual is required to satisfy to be considered highly qualified
12 in a secondary core academic area.

13 G. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
14 the provisions of this section.

15 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.8, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 6-122.8. A. Notwithstanding any other provision of
18 law, the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate
19 in the area of mild-moderate disabilities, severe-profound
20 disabilities, or comprehensive special education to any individual
21 who has:

22 1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited
23 institution of higher education;

1 2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework that may be
2 required for a master's degree in special education from an
3 accredited institution of higher education and any examinations
4 required to obtain a standard certificate in mild-moderate
5 disabilities, severe-profound disabilities, or comprehensive special
6 education;

7 3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area portion
8 of the alternative competency examination as required pursuant to
9 Section 6-187 of this title;

10 4. On file with the State Board of Education a national
11 criminal history record check as required pursuant to Section 5-142
12 of this title; and

13 5. Submitted an application and payment of the required
14 certification fee.

15 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual
16 who holds a current standard certificate pursuant to subsection A of
17 this section can satisfy the highly qualified teacher requirement
18 for early childhood education or elementary education by successful
19 completion of the early childhood education or elementary education
20 examinations.

21 C. To obtain standard certification in early childhood
22 education or elementary education, the individual shall complete an
23 appropriate teacher education program approved by the ~~Oklahoma~~

1 ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational
2 Quality and Accountability.

3 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.9, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 6-122.9. A. Notwithstanding any other provision of
6 law, the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate
7 in the area of mild-moderate disabilities, severe-profound
8 disabilities, or comprehensive special education to any individual
9 certified via an alternative certification route in early childhood
10 education or elementary education who has:

11 1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited
12 institution of higher education;

13 2. Successfully completed the mild-moderate disabilities,
14 severe-profound disabilities, or comprehensive special education
15 alternative competency examinations; and

16 3. Submitted an application and payment of the required
17 certification fee.

18 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and with the
19 exception of paraprofessionals under the Career Development areas,
20 the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate in
21 the area of mild-moderate disabilities, severe-profound
22 disabilities, or comprehensive special education to any individual
23 certified via an alternative certification route in a core academic
24 area, which includes Mathematics, Science, English, Language Arts,

1 History, Foreign Language, Music, Art, Elementary Education, and
2 Early Childhood Education, who has:

3 1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited
4 institution of higher education;

5 2. Successfully completed the mild-moderate disabilities,
6 severe-profound disabilities, or comprehensive special education
7 alternative competency examinations; and

8 3. Submitted an application and payment of the required
9 certification fee.

10 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.10, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 6-122.10. A. The State Board of Education shall issue
13 a two-year provisional certificate in the area of severe-profound
14 disabilities to any individual who has:

15 1. Obtained a standard certificate in the area of mild-moderate
16 disabilities;

17 2. Been recommended for a certificate in the area of severe-
18 profound disabilities by a school district board of education; and

19 3. Submitted an application and payment of the required
20 certification fee.

21 B. An individual who completes the requirements of subsection A
22 of this section may be eligible to receive a standard certificate in
23 the area of severe-profound disabilities upon completion of:

1 1. A micro-credentialing program in the area of severe-profound
2 disabilities approved by the State Board of Education. The micro-
3 credentialing program shall include competencies described in
4 Section 6-187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title; or

5 2. The subject area portion of the alternative competency
6 examination required by Section 6-187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~
7 ~~Statutes~~ this title.

8 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.11, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 6-122.11. Notwithstanding any other provision of the
11 law, the State Board of Education shall issue a one-year alternative
12 teacher certificate, renewable for up to three (3) years, to teach
13 early childhood education or elementary education to any qualified
14 candidate who:

- 15 1. a. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
16 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
17 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree,
18 or a master of library science degree, from an
19 institution accredited by a national or regional
20 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
21 Secretary of the United States Department of
22 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
23 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
24 degrees, or

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

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

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

22 b. within the second year satisfactorily completed six
23 (6) credit hours in child development and math
24 instruction from an educator preparation program

1 approved and accredited by the Commission for
2 Educational Quality and Accountability, participated
3 in an additional yearlong mentorship and/or
4 instructional coaching in child development and math
5 instruction provided by the employing school district
6 prior to the renewal of the provisional certificate
7 for a third year, and successfully completed the
8 general education and subject area portions of the
9 alternative competency examination required in Section
10 6-187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title
11 in the area of specialization for which certification
12 is sought, and

- 13 c. within the third year satisfactorily completed six (6)
14 additional credit hours of professional education
15 coursework from an educator preparation program
16 approved and accredited by the Commission for
17 Educational Quality and Accountability, participated
18 in an additional yearlong mentorship and/or
19 instructional coaching provided by the employing
20 school district, and successfully passed the
21 professional knowledge ~~portions~~ portion of the
22 alternative competency examination required in Section
23 6-187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title
24

1 in the area of specialization for which certification
2 is sought.

3 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-182, is
4 amended to read as follows:

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

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

7 2. "Commission" means the Commission for Educational Quality
8 and Accountability;

9 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
10 Education;

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

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

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

20 7. "Induction" means a program that provides support,
21 mentorship and coaching to educators at the beginning of their
22 careers or as they transition to new roles within a school or
23 district. Induction programs work with inductees to assist in all
24 matters concerning classroom management and professional development

1 for that teacher. Induction programs may involve a committee of one
2 or more mentor teachers, the principal or an assistant principal of
3 the employing school, one or more administrators designated by the
4 school district board of education, a teacher educator in a college
5 or school of education of an institution of higher education, or an
6 educator in a department or school outside the institution's teacher
7 education unit;

8 8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-
9 116 of this title;

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-184, is
23 amended to read as follows:
24
25

1 Section 6-184. A. ~~Beginning July 1, 1997 through July 1, 2014,~~
2 ~~the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ The Commission for
3 Educational Quality and Accountability shall have authority for
4 approval and accreditation of teacher education programs and for
5 ~~assessment of candidates for certification~~ administration of
6 alternative competency examinations according to the provisions of
7 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. As part of this duty the
8 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ shall:

9 1. Include the State Board of Education in the process;

10 2. Review and assess approved, accredited, and new programs of
11 teacher education; and

12 3. Encourage studies and research designed to improve teacher
13 education.

14 B. ~~Until July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule pertaining to~~
15 ~~approval or accreditation of teacher education programs or~~
16 ~~assessment of candidates for certification, the Oklahoma Commission~~
17 ~~for Teacher Preparation shall solicit comments from the State Board~~
18 ~~of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and~~
19 ~~the State Board of Career and Technology Education on the proposed~~
20 ~~rule. Within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of the proposed~~
21 ~~rule from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, the State~~
22 ~~Board of Education, the State Regents and the State Board of Career~~
23 ~~and Technology Education shall separately review the proposed rule~~
24 ~~and return their recommendations to the Commission on the proposed~~

1 ~~adoption. Each recommendation shall include the rationale for the~~
2 ~~recommendation. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~
3 ~~shall accord the recommendations due deliberation in its subsequent~~
4 ~~consideration of the adoption of each proposed rule. If the action~~
5 ~~of the Commission on a proposed rule is not consistent with the~~
6 ~~recommendation made by any of the reviewing entities, within ten~~
7 ~~(10) days of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation's~~
8 ~~formal action on the rule, the Commission shall submit a report~~
9 ~~providing justification for its actions to the Commission for~~
10 ~~Educational Quality and Accountability.~~

11 ~~C. Until July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education, the~~
12 ~~Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of~~
13 ~~Career and Technology Education shall also have authority to~~
14 ~~recommend to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation rules~~
15 ~~for teacher education program approval and accreditation and rules~~
16 ~~for teacher assessment. Any such rule recommended shall be~~
17 ~~considered by the Commission within sixty (60) days of receipt of~~
18 ~~the rule by the same process provided in subsection A of this~~
19 ~~section for rules proposed by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
20 ~~Preparation.~~

21 ~~D. Until July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule pertaining to~~
22 ~~teacher certification, residency or professional development, the~~
23 ~~State Board of Education shall solicit comments from the Oklahoma~~
24 ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation, the Oklahoma State Regents for~~

1 ~~Higher Education and the State Board of Career and Technology~~
2 ~~Education on the proposed rule. Within forty five (45) days of the~~
3 ~~receipt of a proposed rule from the State Board of Education, the~~
4 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, the State Regents and~~
5 ~~the State Board of Career and Technology Education shall separately~~
6 ~~review the proposed rule and return their recommendations to the~~
7 ~~Board on the proposed adoption. Each recommendation shall include~~
8 ~~the rationale for the recommendation. The State Board of Education~~
9 ~~shall accord the recommendations due deliberation in its subsequent~~
10 ~~consideration of the adoption of each rule. If the action of the~~
11 ~~State Board of Education on a proposed rule is not consistent with~~
12 ~~the recommendation made by any of the reviewing entities, within ten~~
13 ~~(10) days of the State Board of Education's formal action on the~~
14 ~~rule, the State Board of Education shall submit a report providing~~
15 ~~justification for its action to the Education Oversight Board.~~

16 ~~E. Until July 1, 2014, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
17 ~~Preparation, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the~~
18 ~~State Board of Career and Technology Education shall have authority~~
19 ~~to recommend to the State Board of Education rules for adoption in~~
20 ~~the areas of teacher certification, residency and professional~~
21 ~~development. Any such rule recommended shall be considered by the~~
22 ~~State Board of Education within sixty (60) days of the receipt of~~
23 ~~the rule by the same process provided in subsection C of this~~
24 ~~section for rules proposed by the State Board of Education.~~

1 ~~F.~~ Beginning July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education, the
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and the State Board of
3 Career and Technology Education shall have the authority to submit
4 proposed rules regarding teacher education program approval,
5 accreditation, and for teacher assessment to the Commission for
6 Educational Quality and Accountability. All proposed rules shall be
7 considered by the Commission within sixty (60) days of receipt of
8 the proposed rule. ~~The proposed rules shall be considered by the~~
9 ~~Commission in the same process provided in subsection B of this~~
10 ~~section for rules proposed by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
11 ~~Preparation.~~ Before adopting any rule regarding teacher education
12 program approval, accreditation, and for teacher assessment, the
13 Commission shall solicit comments from the State Board of Education,
14 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and the State Board
15 of Career and Technology Education on the proposed rule. Within
16 forty-five (45) days of the receipt of the proposed rule from the
17 Commission, the State Board of Education, the State Regents for
18 Higher Education, and the State Board of Career and Technology
19 Education shall separately review the proposed rule and return their
20 recommendations to the Commission on the proposed adoption. Each
21 recommendation shall include the rationale for the recommendation.
22 The Commission shall accord the recommendations due deliberation in
23 its subsequent consideration of the adoption of each proposed rule.
24 If the action of the Commission on a proposed rule is not consistent

1 with the recommendation made by any of the reviewing entities,
2 within ten (10) days of the Commission's formal action on the rule,
3 the Commission shall submit a report providing justification for its
4 actions to the reviewing entities.

5 ~~G.~~ C. Beginning July 1, 2014, before adopting any rule
6 pertaining to teacher leadership and effectiveness or professional
7 development, the State Board of Education shall solicit comments
8 from the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, the
9 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and the State Board of
10 Career and Technology Education on the proposed rule. Within forty-
11 five (45) days of the receipt of a proposed rule from the State
12 Board of Education, the Commission for Educational Quality and
13 Accountability, the State Regents for Higher Education, and the
14 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall separately
15 review the proposed rule and return their recommendations to the
16 Board on the proposed rule. Each recommendation shall include the
17 rationale for the recommendation. The State Board of Education
18 shall accord the recommendations due deliberation in its subsequent
19 consideration of the adoption of each rule.

20 SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-186, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 6-186. A. Criteria for the approval and accreditation
23 of teacher education programs in ~~Oklahoma~~ institutions of higher
24 education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall

1 include, but not be limited to, substantial evidence that persons
2 who enter teacher education programs demonstrate:

3 1. Competency in the oral and written use of the English
4 language;

5 2. A minimum grade point average as established by the
6 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability; and

7 3. The ability to meet criteria established pursuant to the
8 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act at the completion of the teacher
9 education program and provide evidence of having worked with
10 children or youth in a variety of situations.

11 Criteria shall also include a greater emphasis upon field work
12 in accredited schools by prospective teachers under the supervision
13 of higher education faculty.

14 B. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
15 shall work with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and
16 the various institutions of higher education in developing
17 guidelines for a paid teacher internship program which may be
18 offered at each institution for prospective teachers. The purpose
19 of each program shall be to provide mentorship and support for
20 prospective teachers. Students enrolled in a teacher education
21 program shall be eligible to participate in the program.

22 C. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature
23 that the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability work
24 with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various

1 institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby
2 full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional
3 development during their tenure at an institution of higher
4 education to ensure that the future teachers of this state are
5 taught by professional educators fully trained in their area of
6 expertise. Each approved or accredited program of teacher education
7 shall have a system for documenting and reporting the annual
8 professional development activities of all teacher education faculty
9 members. Faculty professional development reports shall be reviewed
10 by the Commission along with professional development activities as
11 a normal part of the accreditation process.

12 It is further declared to be the intent of the Legislature that
13 such professional development plans provide alternative means of
14 education including, but not limited to:

- 15 1. Professional development programs;
- 16 2. Higher education courses;
- 17 3. Exchange programs with public school classroom teachers,
18 administrators, and other school personnel; and
- 19 4. Programs whereby all full-time teacher education faculty
20 members directly involved in the teacher education process including
21 all administrators of the teacher education program, are required to
22 serve in a state accredited public school for at least ten (10)
23 clock hours per school year in responsibilities related to their
24 respective teacher education teaching fields.

1 All public school systems shall participate in the programs
2 provided for in this subsection when needed.

3 D. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
4 shall adopt rules requiring specific improvements to strengthen the
5 screening of student applicants and field activity and placement as
6 set out in subsection A of this section. Such rules shall be
7 reviewed and amended or readopted by the Commission at least once
8 every five (5) years.

9 E. To assist the Commission in setting specific requirements as
10 set out in subsections A and D of this section, the Commission shall
11 annually prepare a statistical report showing the percentage of
12 students from each of the Oklahoma institutions of higher education
13 who have successfully completed ~~or who have failed the competency~~
14 ~~examination for certification~~ a teacher education program or an
15 alternative placement program pursuant to the provisions of Section
16 6-122.3 of this title. The annual report shall show the percentages
17 for each institution of higher education and each ~~assessment~~ subject
18 area separately by student degree status and shall be distributed
19 annually to each member of the Commission for Educational Quality
20 and Accountability, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
21 the governing board of each institution which has an approved or
22 state accredited teacher education program, the State Board of
23 Education, the State Board of Career and Technology Education, and
24 the Legislature.

1 F. By November 1, 2017, the Commission shall adopt rules
2 requiring coursework or training in the use of digital and other
3 instructional technologies as a requisite for program accreditation.

4 SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187, as
5 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 319, O.S.L. 2021, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Section 6-187. A. ~~Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency~~
8 ~~examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
9 ~~Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a~~ Upon the effective date of
10 this act, a teacher candidate who has graduated from a teacher
11 education program at an institution within The Oklahoma State System
12 of Higher Education that is accredited by the Commission for
13 Educational Quality and Accountability shall not be required to take
14 and pass the general education, professional education, or subject
15 area portions of the alternative competency examination. Provided,
16 however, a teacher who seeks certification or endorsement to teach a
17 subject which the teacher is not certified to teach shall be
18 required to complete the subject area portion of the alternative
19 competency examination for the additional subject area.

20 B. An alternative competency examination shall be adopted by
21 the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability for the
22 general education, professional education, and various subject areas
23 and grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and
24 competency of each teacher candidate or teacher who has not

1 graduated from a teacher education program as provided for in
2 subsection A of this section in the subject area the person is
3 seeking certification to teach which shall also include alternative
4 certification as an administrator, as prescribed by the State Board
5 of Education.

6 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
7 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
8 confidentiality of alternative competency examinations.

9 ~~B. C. No~~ A teacher candidate who has not graduated from a
10 teacher education program as provided for in subsection A of this
11 section shall not be eligible for certification until successfully
12 completing the alternative competency ~~examination~~ ~~except those~~
13 ~~candidates who make application to the State Board and meet the~~
14 ~~criteria for the alternative placement program pursuant to Section~~
15 ~~6-122.3 of this title~~ examinations required by subsection B of this
16 section. Certification shall be limited to areas of approval in
17 which the ~~certified~~ teacher candidate has successfully completed the
18 examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~C~~ D of this
19 section, ~~testing for certification~~ administration of alternative
20 competency examinations for subjects in which a teacher candidate or
21 teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an endorsement to
22 teach shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

23 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
24 professional education, or subject area portions of the ~~examination~~

1 alternative competency examination subject to any limit imposed by
2 the Commission.

3 ~~C.~~ D. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection,
4 a teacher who graduated from a teacher education program as provided
5 for in subsection A of this section may be certified in as many
6 areas as the teacher meets the necessary requirements provided by
7 law ~~and~~. A teacher who did not graduate from a teacher education
8 program as provided for in subsection A of this section may be
9 certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the necessary
10 requirements and has successfully completed the subject area portion
11 of the alternative competency examination.

12 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,
13 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
14 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
15 approved by the Commission.

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

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

21 ~~D. E.~~ E. The Commission shall offer the alternative competency
22 ~~examination~~ examinations required by subsection B of this section at
23 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
24 Commission.

1 ~~E.~~ F. If a teacher candidate or teacher who did not graduate
2 from a teacher education program as provided for in subsection A of
3 this section is a non-native-English speaker, the Commission shall
4 offer the subject area portion of the alternative competency
5 examination in the native language of the teacher candidate or
6 teacher only if the teacher candidate or teacher is employed or has
7 been offered employment by a school district as a teacher in a
8 foreign language immersion program offered by the school district.
9 If a non-native-English speaker who did not graduate from a teacher
10 education program as provided for in subsection A of this section
11 and who has received certification in a subject area after taking
12 the subject area portion of the alternative competency examination
13 in the native language of the speaker seeks to add a certification
14 area in the future and that person is no longer employed as a
15 teacher in a foreign language immersion program, the examination for
16 the additional certification area shall be taken in English. The
17 State Board of Education shall issue a restricted license or
18 certificate to any teacher who has completed ~~a~~ the subject area
19 portion of the alternative competency examination in the native
20 language of the teacher as provided for in this subsection
21 restricting the teacher to teaching only in a foreign language
22 immersion program.

23 ~~F.~~ G. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
24 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an
25

1 exception to the requirement to complete a the subject area portion
2 of the alternative competency examination for initial certification
3 in a field which does not require an advanced degree if the
4 candidate did not graduate from a teacher education program but has
5 an advanced degree in a subject that is substantially comparable to
6 the content assessed on a the subject area portion of the
7 alternative competency examination. The advanced degree shall be
8 from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting
9 agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the United States
10 Department of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board
11 with the necessary information to determine comparability.

12 G. H. 1. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
13 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
14 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
15 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
16 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
17 provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is
18 unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district
19 shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or
20 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic
21 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives
22 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an
23 individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State
24 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

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

- 5 a. the individual has been granted an emergency or
6 provisional certificate pursuant to paragraph 1 of
7 this subsection for two (2) years,
- 8 b. the individual has not successfully completed the
9 alternative competency examinations required by this
10 section,
- 11 c. the individual submits a portfolio of his or her work
12 to the State Board of Education, which shall include
13 evidence of progress toward standard certification,
- 14 d. the employing school district board of education
15 agrees to renew the individual's contract to teach for
16 the ensuing fiscal year, and
- 17 e. the superintendent of the employing school district
18 submits to the State Board of Education the reason the
19 emergency or provisional certificate should be renewed
20 and provides evidence of the district's inability to
21 hire a teacher who holds a standard certificate.

22 3. Individuals employed by a school district under an emergency
23 or provisional certificate shall not be considered career teachers
24

1 and therefore not entitled to the protections of the Teacher Due
2 Process Act of 1990.

3 SECTION 12. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187A, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 6-187A. If a company that provides alternative
6 competency examinations within this state requires payment from a
7 teacher candidate for an examination prior to the release of the
8 previous competency examination results for that candidate, it shall
9 be required to provide a full refund to the teacher candidate in the
10 event he or she successfully passes the previous examination.

11 SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187B, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-187B. A. The Commission for Educational Quality and
14 Accountability shall establish the Teaching Certification
15 Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program shall be to provide
16 qualifying teacher candidates who have not graduated from a teacher
17 education program and who are seeking certification with a
18 scholarship toward the cost of alternative competency examinations
19 required by Section 6-187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this
20 title, subject to the availability of funds.

21 B. The Commission shall establish eligibility criteria for the
22 Teaching Certification Scholarship Program.

23 C. Scholarships granted pursuant to this section shall be
24 limited to one per teacher candidate.

1 D. A teacher candidate who accepts a scholarship shall be
2 required to submit to the Commission a declaration to teach for a
3 minimum of one (1) year in an accredited school district in
4 Oklahoma. If the teacher candidate does not teach at a school
5 district in Oklahoma upon achieving certification, he or she shall
6 be required to reimburse the Commission for the full amount awarded.

7 SECTION 14. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Section 6-189. A. The certification system required by the
10 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act as part of the ~~new~~ teacher
11 preparation system shall be competency-based. The competencies for
12 certification shall be integrated with competencies specified in
13 Section 6-185 of this title. By July 1, 1996, the State Board of
14 Education shall adopt general competencies for certification, and by
15 January 1, 1997, the Board shall have adopted full competencies and
16 implemented the certification system as required in this act. No
17 higher education courses or credit hours may be specified by the
18 State Board of Education in rules for certification. Nothing in the
19 certification rules adopted by the Board shall prohibit the Oklahoma
20 State Regents for Higher Education from adopting policies and
21 procedures it deems appropriate for coursework, grade point average,
22 or credit hours for teacher preparation at institutions in The
23 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

1 B. The certification requirements for a school principal not
2 alternatively certified under subsection D of this section shall
3 include not less than:

4 1. Completion of a standard master's degree;

5 2. Completion of a program in education administration approved
6 by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
7 Educational Quality and Accountability with an emphasis on
8 curriculum, instruction, and building-level leadership skills. The
9 requirement in this paragraph shall not apply to any person who has
10 completed a master's degree program in education that included
11 competencies that are substantially equal to those listed in this
12 paragraph and if the degree was completed prior to July 1, 2005;

13 3. Any other professional education and requirements as may be
14 fixed by the State Board of Education; and

15 4. ~~A passing score on the subject area competency examination~~
16 ~~required in Section 6-187 of this title; and~~

17 ~~5.~~ A minimum of two (2) years of successful teaching experience
18 in public or private schools accredited by the State Board of
19 Education or by the proper accrediting authority of another state of
20 the United States.

21 C. The certification requirements for a superintendent of
22 schools not alternatively certified under subsection D of this
23 section shall include not less than:

1 1. Certification as a school principal or completion of the
2 certification requirements for a school principal as set forth in
3 subsection B of this section;

4 2. Completion of a program in education administration approved
5 by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
6 Educational Quality and Accountability with an emphasis on district-
7 level leadership skills, and which shall include the following
8 competencies:

- 9 a. instructional leadership,
- 10 b. organizational leadership, including education
11 finance, education law, and risk management,
- 12 c. collaborative and community leadership, and
- 13 d. ethical leadership.

14 The requirement in this paragraph shall not apply to any person
15 who has completed ~~an Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~
16 ~~approved Master's Degree in Education Administration~~ a master's
17 degree in education administration approved by the Commission for
18 Educational Quality and Accountability or has completed a program in
19 education that included competencies that are substantially equal to
20 those listed in this paragraph, and if the degree or program was
21 completed between ~~the effective date of this act~~ August 23, 2012,
22 and July 1, 2005;

23 3. Any other professional education and requirements as may be
24 fixed by the State Board of Education; and

1 4. ~~A passing score on the subject area competency examination~~
2 ~~required in Section 6-187 of this title; and~~

3 ~~5.~~ A minimum of two (2) years of administrative experience in
4 public or private schools accredited by the State Board of Education
5 or by the proper accrediting authority of another state of the
6 United States.

7 D. 1. The standards for alternative certification for
8 superintendents of schools and principals shall include:

- 9 a. the completion of a standard master's degree,
10 b. two (2) years of relevant work experience in a
11 supervisory or administrative capacity,
12 c. a passing score on the subject area portion of the
13 alternative competency examination required in Section
14 6-187 of this title, and
15 d. filing with the director of teacher education at an
16 Oklahoma accredited institution of higher education a
17 plan for completing an alternative administrative
18 preparation program within three (3) years. Relevant
19 work experience and coursework may be considered and
20 applied to complete the plan.

21 2. An alternative certificate for superintendent of schools and
22 principals shall not exceed three (3) years and shall not be
23 renewable.

1 3. Upon successful completion of an alternative administrative
2 preparation program by a participant, the State Board of Education
3 shall issue a standard certificate for superintendent or principal,
4 as applicable, to the applicant.

5 4. Any person participating in an alternative certification
6 program for superintendent of schools and principals on ~~the~~
7 ~~effective date of this act~~ August 26, 2005, shall be subject to the
8 program requirements in effect prior to ~~the effective date of this~~
9 ~~act~~ August 26, 2005.

10 E. The certification requirements for a superintendent of a
11 technology center school district shall include not less than a
12 standard master's degree, any other professional education
13 requirements as may be fixed by the State Board of Education, and a
14 minimum of four (4) years teaching, supervisory, or administrative
15 experience, which may include teaching of full-time adult students,
16 in a technology center school district. A person meeting the
17 requirements set forth in subsection C of this section shall be
18 eligible for a certificate for superintendent of a technology center
19 school district.

20 F. The State Board of Education and the State Board of Career
21 and Technology Education shall promulgate rules for a certification
22 system option specifically for teachers and instructors in the
23 technology center school districts. The teacher preparation system
24 shall be competency-based. The competencies for certification shall

1 be integrated with competencies of this title, as well as reflect
2 industry-based skills, standards, and certifications.

3 G. Certificates issued by the State Board of Education may be
4 revoked by the State Board of Education for willful violation of any
5 rule of the Board or of any federal or state law or other proper
6 cause but only after sufficient hearing has been given before the
7 Board.

8 H. Teaching in a Head Start program or programs shall be used
9 for renewal of a standard teaching certificate.

10 SECTION 15. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189.1, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 6-189.1. A. Beginning July 1, 2000, no school district
13 shall employ any teacher to teach mathematics in grades seven or
14 eight, unless the teacher is certified to teach middle or secondary
15 level mathematics or has received middle level endorsement pursuant
16 to subsection B of this section.

17 B. ~~Any teacher who became certified to teach prior to September~~
18 ~~1, 1999, does not have middle or secondary level certification in~~
19 ~~mathematics, and is serving in a school as a mathematics teacher for~~
20 ~~grades seven or eight shall be required to obtain middle level~~
21 ~~certification or middle level endorsement before September 1, 2003.~~
22 ~~For such teachers, middle~~ Upon the effective date of this act,
23 middle level certification or middle level endorsement may be
24 obtained as follows:

1 1. Middle level mathematics certification - Upon the effective
2 date of this act, a teacher candidate who graduated from a teacher
3 education program approved by the Commission for Educational Quality
4 and Accountability with an emphasis on middle level mathematics may
5 obtain middle level mathematics certification. A teacher candidate
6 who did not graduate from a teacher education program may obtain
7 alternative middle level certification by successfully completing
8 the appropriate ~~Oklahoma Subject Area Test~~ subject area portion of
9 the alternative competency examination for middle level mathematics
10 administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~
11 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability. The teacher
12 candidate shall not be required to take the ~~Oklahoma Professional~~
13 ~~Teacher Examination~~ professional education portion of the
14 alternative competency examination for secondary students
15 administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~
16 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability. A teacher
17 granted middle level certification or alternative middle level
18 certification pursuant to this paragraph shall be entitled to teach
19 mathematics in grades seven and eight for high school graduation
20 credit; and

21 2. Middle level endorsement - A teacher may obtain a middle
22 level endorsement by successfully completing a professional
23 development institute in middle level mathematics developed and
24 administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~

1 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability. Any
2 professional development institute developed pursuant to this
3 paragraph shall meet the criteria as established in subsection H of
4 this section. A teacher granted middle level endorsement pursuant
5 to this paragraph shall not be entitled to teach mathematics for
6 high school graduation credit.

7 C. Any teacher serving in a school as a mathematics teacher for
8 grade six may obtain middle level endorsement by successfully
9 completing a professional development institute in middle level
10 mathematics developed pursuant to this section. Such teacher shall
11 be eligible to participate in a professional development institute
12 in middle level mathematics developed and administered by the
13 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
14 Educational Quality and Accountability one time free of charge.

15 D. Any teacher seeking alternative middle level certification
16 or middle level endorsement pursuant to subsection B of this section
17 shall be eligible to take the ~~Oklahoma Subject Area Test~~ subject
18 area portion of the alternative competency examination in middle
19 level mathematics one time free of charge after July 1, 2000, or
20 participate in a professional development institute in middle level
21 mathematics developed and administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission~~
22 ~~for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and
23 Accountability one time free of charge after July 1, 2000.

1 E. A teacher who is granted alternative middle level
2 certification in mathematics, pursuant to subsection B of this
3 section, may teach grade nine only if the teacher successfully
4 completes the ~~Oklahoma Professional Teacher Examination~~ professional
5 education portion of the alternative competency examination for
6 secondary students.

7 F. A teacher who is granted middle level endorsement pursuant
8 to subsection B or C of this section may teach mathematics courses
9 in grades seven or eight for high school credit only if the teacher
10 has completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) college credit semester
11 hours of mathematics as specified by the State Department of
12 Education.

13 G. Any teacher who became certified to teach prior to September
14 1, 1999, did not have middle or secondary level certification in
15 mathematics and successfully completed the appropriate ~~Oklahoma~~
16 ~~Subject Area Test~~ subject area portion of the alternative competency
17 examination for middle level mathematics between July 1, 1999, and
18 July 1, 2000, shall be granted a middle level certificate pursuant
19 to subsection B of this section.

20 H. 1. Any professional development institute in middle level
21 mathematics developed pursuant to this section and administered by
22 the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
23 Educational Quality and Accountability shall:

24 a. consist of a minimum of thirty (30) clock hours,

- b. be competency based,
- c. emphasize effective learning practices,
- d. require collaboration among participants, and
- e. require each participant to prepare a work product which can be utilized in the classroom by the participant.

2. Any professional development institute in middle level mathematics developed pursuant to this section and administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall be chosen through a competitive bid process, be reviewed by a professional development committee and other constituencies, and be subject to peer review. Invitations to bid for a professional development institute shall be open to any public or private entity.

I. Beginning July 1, 2013, any teacher with certification or endorsement to teach at the secondary level may teach the subject area in which the teacher has received certification or endorsement in grades five and six.

SECTION 16. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-189.2. A. ~~Any~~ Upon the effective date of this act, any person seeking certification as a school psychologist or school psychometrist shall be exempt from ~~the requirement to successfully complete the general education and professional education portions~~

1 ~~of the~~ being required to complete alternative competency examination
2 examinations required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-190 of this
3 title.

4 B. Any person certified as a school psychologist or school
5 psychometrist pursuant to a substitution or exemption as provided in
6 this section shall be required to complete all portions of the
7 alternative competency examination as required pursuant to Sections
8 6-187 and 6-190 of this title if such person seeks to add
9 alternative certification in another subject in the future.

10 C. ~~The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission
11 for Educational Quality and Accountability shall adopt rules to
12 implement the provisions of this section.

13 SECTION 17. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-190, is
14 amended to read as follows:

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

21 B. ~~The~~ Upon the effective date of this act, the Board shall
22 issue a standard certificate to teach to any person who:
23
24
25

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; and

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 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 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-country certificate and meets any

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

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

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

20 4. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing a process by
21 which out-of-country certificates will be reviewed and evaluated for
22 purposes of awarding a certificate to teach pursuant to this
23 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~~ examination used in
23 a majority of the other states. The certificate to teach shall only
24

1 be for 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 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
23
24
25

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 J. 1. The Board shall issue a master teaching certificate to
5 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
25

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

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

21 1. Lead: an additional ten (10) days to be used to strengthen
22 instructional leadership. A person with a lead teaching certificate
23 shall receive an annual salary supplement of at least Three Thousand
24 Dollars (\$3,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever

1 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies
2 pursuant to Section 18-114.14 of this title; and

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

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

13 M. 1. Any person who is eligible for a lead or master teaching
14 certificate described in this section shall make application for the
15 following school year with the State Board of Education. The
16 application shall include a recommendation from the local board of
17 education and determination that the applicant has met the statutory
18 criteria. In reviewing an application, the local school board of
19 education and the superintendent shall consider the ability of the
20 school district to fulfill the additional requirements described in
21 subsections I and J of this section before making a recommendation
22 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 N. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the Department shall
5 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 O. For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, the Department
10 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 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 subsections I and J is not
17 available, the Department shall not be required to fulfill the
18 requirements listed in subsections L, M, N, and O of this section.

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

21 SECTION 18. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-191, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 6-191. Until July 1, 1998, there is created in the
24 State Treasury a revolving fund for the State Board of Education, to
25

1 be designated the "Teachers' Curriculum Examination Revolving Fund".
2 The fund shall consist of curriculum examination fees paid to the
3 Board pursuant to statutory authority. The revolving fund shall be
4 a continuing fund not subject to fiscal year limitations and shall
5 be under the control and management of the administrative authority
6 of the State Board of Education. Expenditures from said fund shall
7 be made to maintain the curriculum examination process as set out in
8 this act. Warrants for expenditure shall be drawn by the State
9 Treasurer on claims signed by an authorized employee or employees of
10 the State Board of Education and approved by the Director of the
11 Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

12 On July 1, 1997, the State Board of Education shall transfer any
13 unencumbered funds in the Teachers' Curriculum Examination Revolving
14 Fund to the Teachers' Alternative Competency Examination Revolving
15 Fund. Any funds which are unexpended on January 1, 1998, shall be
16 transferred to the Teachers' Alternative Competency Examination
17 Revolving Fund. On July 1, 1997, there shall be created in the
18 State Treasury a revolving fund for the ~~Oklahoma Commission for~~
19 ~~Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and
20 Accountability, to be designated the "Teachers' Alternative
21 Competency Examination Revolving Fund". The fund shall consist of
22 all monies received by the Commission from alternative competency
23 examination fees paid pursuant to statutory authority. The
24 revolving fund shall be a continuing fund not subject to fiscal year

1 limitations and shall be under the control and management of the
2 administrative authority of the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
3 ~~Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability.
4 Expenditures from said fund shall be made to maintain the
5 alternative competency examination process set out in the Oklahoma
6 Teacher Preparation Act. Warrants for expenditure shall be drawn by
7 the State Treasurer on claims signed by an authorized employee or
8 employees of the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~
9 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability and approved
10 by the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

11 SECTION 19. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-195.1, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-195.1. A. It is hereby declared to be the intent of
14 the Legislature to establish a continuing education program whereby
15 ~~teachers employed to teach mathematics may obtain certification in~~
16 ~~mathematics and~~ teachers who did not graduate from a teacher
17 education program approved by the Commission for Educational Quality
18 and Accountability and who are certified to teach mathematics in the
19 state may take higher education courses in order to obtain the
20 competencies needed to enable the teacher to successfully complete
21 the subject area ~~examinations~~ portion of the alternative competency
22 examination and become certified to teach any of the core curriculum
23 mathematics courses recommended by the American College Test. The
24 program shall pay up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per credit

1 hour up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) credit hours for a teacher
2 to take higher education courses in mathematics. Teachers required
3 to gain certification as provided in Section 6-189.1 of this title
4 shall be given priority in the funding for the continuing education
5 program. The purpose of the program is to improve the knowledge and
6 skills of teachers and to ensure that the children of the state are
7 taught by professional educators, fully prepared in the area of
8 mathematics.

9 B. Implementation of this section shall be contingent upon the
10 appropriation of state funds by the Legislature for the specific
11 purpose of implementing this section. Nothing in this section shall
12 prevent the State Board of Education or a school district board of
13 education from utilizing private, local, or federal funds to
14 implement this section.

15 C. Implementation of this section shall be delayed until the
16 current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public
17 elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for the 1998-
18 99 school year or any school year thereafter for Oklahoma, as
19 reported by the National Center for Education Statistics annually in
20 the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches at least ninety percent
21 (90%) of the regional average expenditure for that same year, and
22 funds are provided. For purposes of this section, the regional
23 average expenditure shall consist of the current expenditure per
24 pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary

1 schools in unadjusted dollars for each of the following states:
2 Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and
3 Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of each year, the State
4 Board of Education shall report whether or not the ninety-percent
5 expenditure level has been reached based on information reported
6 annually in the Digest of Education Statistics by the National
7 Center for Education Statistics. This section shall be implemented
8 on July 1 after the first January 1 report verifies that the ninety-
9 percent expenditure level has been reached and funds have been
10 provided for the specific purposes of this section.

11 SECTION 20. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-197, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-197. A. ~~All~~ Upon the effective date of this act, all
14 students graduating from an accredited institution of higher
15 education program approved or accredited by the ~~Oklahoma Commission~~
16 ~~for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and
17 Accountability for the preparation of educational personnel on or
18 after ~~September 1, 1999,~~ the effective date of this act and seeking
19 to enter the public education system as a teacher shall be subject
20 to the ~~assessment and~~ certification procedures established in the
21 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. Except as provided for in
22 subsection B of this section, all students graduating from an
23 accredited institution of higher education prior to September 1,
24 1999, and seeking to enter the public education system as a teacher

1 shall be subject to the assessment and certification requirements in
2 effect before July 1, 1997.

3 B. ~~Any~~ Upon the effective date of this act, any person who
4 graduates from a teacher education program at an accredited
5 institution of higher education ~~prior to September 1, 1999,~~ and
6 seeks certification or endorsement ~~subsequent to September 1, 1999,~~
7 to teach a subject area which the teacher was not certified to teach
8 ~~prior to September 1, 1999,~~ following completion of the required
9 ~~higher education~~ teacher education program shall be required to
10 successfully complete the subject area portion of the alternative
11 competency examination ~~for such subject area~~ prior to receiving such
12 certification or endorsement.

13 SECTION 21. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

14 SECTION 22. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
15 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
16 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
17 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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