

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 1886

By: Boatman

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending Section 6-194,  
8 as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 16, O.S.L. 2019  
9 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-194), which relates to  
10 professional development programs; requiring mental  
11 health training; mandating length and frequency of  
12 training; allowing school districts to contract with  
13 approved nonprofits and community partners;  
14 authorizing school districts to develop training;  
15 listing minimum components of training; and providing  
16 an effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as  
19 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 16, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp.  
20 2020, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this  
22 state shall establish professional development programs for the  
23 certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs  
24 shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a  
professional development committee appointed by the board of  
education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30,

1 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may  
2 elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for  
3 certified teachers and administrators of the district. If a school  
4 district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development  
5 program, the district may expend any monies allocated for  
6 professional development for any purpose related to the support and  
7 maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of  
8 education of the school district.

9 B. Each professional development committee shall include  
10 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed  
11 mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of  
12 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher  
13 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional  
14 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The  
15 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of  
16 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers  
17 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to  
18 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

19 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional  
20 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach  
21 to analyze student data and determine district and school  
22 professional development needs. The professional development  
23 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of  
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1 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum  
2 areas for the following goals:

- 3 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the  
4 district and each school site;
- 5 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
- 6 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-  
7 mandated tests and the ACT;
- 8 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and
- 9 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

10 Each program may also include components on classroom management  
11 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or  
12 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic  
13 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116  
14 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis.  
15 The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist  
16 school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic  
17 education components into professional development programs.

18 D. At a minimum of once an academic year a program shall be  
19 offered which includes the following:

- 20 1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
- 21 2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
- 22 3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and
- 23 4. Available resources.

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1 E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year,  
2 training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident  
3 teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three  
4 shall be required to complete the autism training during the  
5 resident year and at least one time every three (3) years  
6 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals  
7 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be  
8 required to complete the autism training at least one time every  
9 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum  
10 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources  
11 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to  
12 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school  
13 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or  
14 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically  
15 designed for school counselors.

16 Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional  
17 development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited  
18 to, professional development provided by the district, any state  
19 agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

20 F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a  
21 dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. At a minimum, the  
22 program shall include:

- 23 1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in  
24 students;

1        2. Training in effective classroom instruction to meet the  
2 needs of students with dyslexia; and

3        3. Available dyslexia resources for teachers, students and  
4 parents.

5        G. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, all certified  
6 teachers and administrators and all classroom support staff  
7 including, but not limited to, paraprofessionals, teacher assistants  
8 and teacher aides in direct contact with students shall complete at  
9 least eight (8) hours of mental health training in the first year of  
10 employment and at least five (5) hours of mental health training  
11 once every three (3) years thereafter. The mental health training  
12 hours completed pursuant to this subsection shall be transferred  
13 with the employee if he or she moves to another school district in  
14 the state. School districts may enter into agreements with  
15 nonprofit entities and other community partners to assist with or  
16 provide mental health training to teachers, administrators and staff  
17 pursuant to this subsection if the nonprofits and community partners  
18 are approved by the State Department of Education and the Department  
19 of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. School districts may  
20 develop their own mental health training if approved by the State  
21 Department of Education and the Department of Mental Health and  
22 Substance Abuse Services. At a minimum, the training shall include:

- 1        1. Strategies and action plans for helping students who are  
2 experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or who are in  
3 crisis;
- 4        2. Introduction to common mental health challenges for youth;
- 5        3. Review of typical adolescent development;
- 6        4. Information on topics, including, but not limited to,  
7 anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may  
8 occur, disruptive behavior disorders and eating disorders;
- 9        5. Information about the services provided by community-based  
10 organizations related to mental health, substance abuse and trauma;
- 11        6. Information about the impact trauma and adverse childhood  
12 experiences can have on a student's ability to learn;
- 13        7. The availability of mental health evaluation and treatment  
14 by telemedicine; and
- 15        8. Information about evidence-based strategies for prevention  
16 of at-risk behaviors.

17        H. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each  
18 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district  
19 board of education to meet the professional development requirements  
20 established by the board, or established through the negotiation  
21 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the  
22 professional development requirements established by each board of  
23 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum  
24 number of the total number of points required to maintain

1 employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of  
2 education professional development requirements may be grounds for  
3 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure  
4 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments  
5 affecting the teacher. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011,  
6 and June 30, 2012, a certified teacher shall not be required to  
7 complete any points of the total number of professional development  
8 points required. Provided, a teacher may elect to complete some or  
9 all of the minimum number of points required for the two (2) fiscal  
10 years and any points completed shall be counted toward the total  
11 number of points required to maintain employment. If a teacher does  
12 not complete some or all of the minimum number of points required  
13 for one (1) or both fiscal years, the total number of points  
14 required to maintain employment shall be adjusted and reduced by the  
15 number of points not completed.

16 ~~H.~~ I. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State  
17 Department of Education on the district level professional  
18 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results  
19 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection  
20 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and  
21 offer a professional development program as provided for in  
22 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to  
23 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but  
24 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not

1 to offer a program and all professional development activities  
2 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

3 ~~I.~~ J. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department  
4 shall develop an online system for reporting as required in  
5 subsection ~~H~~ I of this section. The Department shall also make such  
6 information available on its website.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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