

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 3658

By: Sterling

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.3, is  
24 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

1 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has  
2 attained a retention grade point average of not less  
3 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

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

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

20 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b  
21 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency  
22 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an  
23 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary  
24 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined

1 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-  
2 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma  
3 Department of Career and Technology Education;

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

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

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

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

22 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school  
23 district in this state offering employment in the area of  
24 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that

1 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by  
2 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek  
3 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in  
4 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection  
5 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the  
6 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder  
7 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes  
8 of Section 6-195 of this title.

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

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

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

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

4           3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section  
5 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as  
6 other inductees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further  
23 qualification; and  
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1           2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for  
2 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section  
3 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year  
4 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any  
5 person seeking standard certification through an alternative  
6 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses  
7 during regular semesters if offered.

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

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

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

18           1.    a.    has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as  
19                    a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,  
20                    professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree  
21                    or a master of library science degree, from an  
22                    institution accredited by a national or regional  
23                    accrediting agency which is recognized by the  
24                    Secretary of the United States Department of

1 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
2 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal  
3 degrees, or

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

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

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



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

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

3 SECTION 3. 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 inductee  
6 employed by the school district. A mentor teacher shall be a  
7 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 examination" means the assessment required in  
17 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for certification as a teacher  
18 and shall consist of tests over ~~general education~~, professional  
19 education and subject areas as defined by the Commission for  
20 Educational Quality and Accountability.

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

23 Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency  
24 examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 C. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall adopt  
2 rules to implement the provisions of this section.

3 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.  
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