

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL 212

By: Seifried

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to teacher preparation; directing the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability to establish and maintain TeachForwardOK for certain time period; providing purpose; directing the Commission to issue certain request for proposals within certain time period; providing process for program application; directing the Commission to prescribe application form; directing the Commission to establish criteria for applicant approval; directing the Commission to award grants to approved applicants, subject to availability of funding; allowing the Commission to use certain funds for implementation; providing for use of grants; directing certain provider to evaluate certain minimum factors; requiring evaluation reports to be electronically submitted to approved applicants and the Commission; directing teacher education program to electronically submit a report response to the Commission within certain time period; directing report responses to prioritize certain approaches; directing the Commission to review report responses and select certain program to receive certain funding for certain purpose, subject to availability of funding; directing the Commission to electronically submit certain report by certain date; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

2 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
3 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-186.1 of Title 70, unless  
4 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

5 A. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
6 shall establish and maintain a two-year pilot program to be known as  
7 TeachForwardOK to provide new, high-quality pathways to enter the  
8 teaching profession and increase the number of teachers in this  
9 state's workforce.

10 B. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act,  
11 the Commission shall issue a request for proposals to select  
12 technical assistance providers to evaluate teacher education  
13 programs in institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma  
14 State System of Higher Education that are accredited by the  
15 Commission pursuant to Section 6-186 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
16 Statutes.

17 C. To participate in TeachForwardOK, a teacher education  
18 program shall submit an application to the Commission in the manner  
19 and on a form prescribed by the Commission. The Commission shall  
20 establish criteria to approve applicants. Subject to the  
21 availability of funds, the Commission shall award grants to approved  
22 applicant teacher education programs. The Commission may use any  
23 gifts, grants, devises, and donations from any public or private  
24 source and monies appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of

1 implementing the provisions of this section. Grants shall be used  
2 as incentives to participate and to contract with a technical  
3 assistance provider selected by the Commission pursuant to  
4 subsection B of this section. The provider shall evaluate, at a  
5 minimum, the following:

6 1. Teacher candidate recruitment and completion;

7 2. Whether the teacher education program prepares teacher  
8 candidates effectively;

9 3. Whether the teacher education program meets workforce needs  
10 in this state; and

11 4. Innovative ways to recruit nontraditional teacher candidates  
12 unique to the teacher education program.

13 D. 1. Evaluation reports prepared by a technical assistance  
14 provider shall be electronically submitted to the approved applicant  
15 teacher education program and the Commission.

16 2. Within ninety (90) days of receiving the report, the teacher  
17 education program shall electronically submit a report response to  
18 the Commission detailing how the teacher education program plans to  
19 address the evaluation report's findings. The report response shall  
20 prioritize innovative approaches to provide new, high-quality  
21 pathways to enter the teaching profession and increase the number of  
22 teachers in this state's workforce including, but not limited to:

23 a. developing a system for recruiting eligible teacher  
24 candidates, such as:

- (1) a pathway for high school students to become paraprofessionals,
- (2) a pathway for paraprofessionals to become teachers, and
- (3) a pathway for individuals with bachelor's degrees to become teachers,

b. developing a curriculum that includes intensive on-the-job training for teacher candidates,

c. identifying a mastery-based evaluation system to determine when eligible teacher candidates have mastered the skills and competencies necessary for graduation from an apprenticeship program and outlining benchmarks that teacher candidates must meet as they progress through on-the-job training,

d. offering a schedule that enables teacher candidates to work full time in a public school district while participating in an apprenticeship program and allowing paraprofessionals to continue in their positions, or

e. providing a flexible schedule for paraprofessionals participating in an apprenticeship program to support their success in the program that will facilitate course completion and on-the-job training.

1 E. Subject to the availability of funding, the Commission shall  
2 review the report responses submitted pursuant to subsection D of  
3 this section and select one approved applicant teacher education  
4 program to receive Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) to  
5 enact the initiatives outlined in the program's report response.

6 F. By December 31, 2027, the Commission shall electronically  
7 submit a report of TeachForwardOK's findings and recommendations to  
8 the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the  
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10 G. The Commission shall promulgate rules to implement the  
11 provisions of this section.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

13 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
14 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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