

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2702

By: Ford of the House

and

Rader of the Senate

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5  
6 An Act relating to special education; defining term;  
7 requiring certain qualifications for special  
8 education administrators; requiring State Board of  
9 Education to issue certain acknowledgement of  
10 competency; requiring training cover certain topics;  
11 requiring State Board of Education to offer certain  
12 options for completing competency requirements;  
13 requiring competency exam; exempting certain special  
14 education administrators from requirement; providing  
15 for codification; providing an effective date; and  
16 declaring an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-189.3 of Title 70, unless  
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. For this section, "special education administrator" means  
22 the director and assistant director of a special education program  
23 for a school district.

24 B. Beginning August 1, 2026, no school district shall employ a  
special education administrator unless the individual:

1. Holds a valid standard teaching certificate issued by the  
State Board of Education; and

1           2. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 of subsection D of  
2 this section, obtains an acknowledgment of competency as provided  
3 for in subsection C within one (1) year of being employed as a  
4 special education administrator.

5           C. 1. The State Board of Education shall issue an  
6 acknowledgement of competency in the area of special education  
7 federal and state laws, regulations, policies, and procedures to a  
8 special education administrator. By January 1, 2026, the State  
9 Board shall develop two (2) tracks for completing a one-time  
10 acknowledgement of competency:

11           a. a micro-credential track for individuals with five (5)  
12 or less years of experience previously or currently  
13 serving in the role of a special education  
14 administrator, and

15           b. a standard track for individuals who are not required  
16 to obtain the micro-credential and have six (6) or  
17 more years of experience currently serving in the role  
18 of a special education administrator.

19           2. The content of the 150-clock hour special education program  
20 shall be the same for the standard track and the micro-credential  
21 track, except the micro-credential track shall require mastery of  
22 competency at or above seventy percent (70%) on coursework and  
23 examinations.

1 3. Beginning August 1, 2026, an individual must complete either  
2 the standard or micro-credential track within one (1) calendar year  
3 from the date of hire.

4 4. At the successful completion of either the standard or  
5 micro-credential track, the individual shall receive a certificate  
6 of completion which will be maintained as part of the employee's  
7 record with the local education agency and stored in the Oklahoma  
8 Educator Credentialing System.

9 D. 1. Except as provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection, a  
10 special education administrator shall successfully complete the  
11 subject area competency examination in either mild-moderate  
12 disabilities, severe-profound disabilities, or comprehensive special  
13 education as prescribed by the State Department of Education.

14 2. An individual who has a valid Special Education Teaching  
15 Certificate as provided for in Sections 6-122.7, 6-122.8, or 6-122.9  
16 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or an individual who has a  
17 master's degree in school administration, special education, or a  
18 related field shall be exempt from the acknowledgement of competency  
19 requirement in subsection C of this section and the subject area  
20 competency examination requirement in paragraph 1 of this  
21 subsection.

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

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

