

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1955

By: Waldron and Rosecrants of
the House

and

Reinhardt of the Senate

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11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

12 An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
13 Section 6-204.2, which relates to the Education
14 Leadership Oklahoma program; updating references;
15 clarifying award coverage; increasing maximum amount
16 of award; changing conditions for repayment;
17 authorizing reimbursement under certain conditions;
18 expanding certain mentor program; and providing an
19 effective date.

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

21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-204.2, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 6-204.2. A. ~~The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
Preparation Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability

1 and the State Board of Education are authorized to establish the
2 Education Leadership Oklahoma program.

3 B. The purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program
4 are to:

5 1. Provide teachers throughout the state information about
6 National Board certification and the Education Leadership Oklahoma
7 program services;

8 2. Provide technical assistance and National-Board-certified
9 mentors to all teachers seeking National Board certification upon
10 request;

11 3. Reward teachers who are seeking National Board certification
12 by awarding them a portion of the ~~application processing charge and~~
13 ~~assessment fee and scholarship~~ National Board certification cost as
14 provided in subsection D of this section; and

15 4. Provide recognition to National-Board-certified teachers.

16 C. To fulfill the objectives of the Education Leadership
17 Oklahoma Act, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

18 1. Inform teachers of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program
19 and services it provides to teachers seeking National Board
20 certification, emphasizing recruiting efforts toward teachers at
21 high-poverty schools, schools identified as in need of improvement
22 and in ~~counties~~ districts with the lowest percentage of teachers who
23 have achieved National Board certification; and

24

1 2. Ensure that all teachers seeking National Board
2 certification receive adequate information regarding the level of
3 commitment required to acquire National Board certification.

4 D. The Commission shall select not more than one hundred
5 applicants to participate in the program each fiscal year for whom
6 the Commission shall pay ~~one-half (1/2) of the application~~
7 ~~processing charge and assessment fee for National Board~~
8 ~~certification. The total amount paid by the Commission shall not~~
9 ~~exceed One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$1,300.00). In addition~~
10 ~~the Commission shall also provide to the selected applicants a~~
11 ~~scholarship in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to cover~~
12 ~~other expenses associated with obtaining National Board~~
13 ~~certification up to One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00)~~
14 of the National Board certification cost.

15 E. The Commission shall promulgate rules establishing a process
16 for accepting applications for the Education Leadership Oklahoma
17 program and for providing to applicants selected for the program up-
18 front payment of the ~~application processing charge and assessment~~
19 ~~fee and scholarship~~ National Board certification cost. If a
20 selected applicant who receives the up-front payment does not
21 ~~complete National Board certification within three (3) years~~ fulfill
22 all submission requirements for National Board certification as
23 established by the certification vendor within the maximum allowable
24 time frame, the applicant will be required to repay the full amount

1 of the component fees paid on his or her behalf, the applicant shall
2 repay the Commission the full amount paid by the Commission pursuant
3 to subsection D of this section. ~~All~~ Subject to the availability of
4 funding, all selected applicants who do not receive an up-front
5 payment and successfully complete National Board certification shall
6 be reimbursed by the Commission for the ~~application processing~~
7 ~~charge and assessment fee~~ National Board certification cost. The
8 total amount of reimbursement paid by the Commission shall not
9 exceed ~~One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$1,300.00)~~ One Thousand
10 Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00).

11 F. ~~It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma~~
12 ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation contract with Southeastern~~
13 ~~Oklahoma State University to establish Education Leadership Oklahoma~~
14 ~~program training in higher education teacher preparation programs in~~
15 ~~the state to assist teachers in meeting the requirements to obtain~~
16 ~~National Board certification.~~

17 G. ~~All~~ Subject to the availability of funding, all teachers
18 seeking initial National Board certification either through the
19 Education Leadership Oklahoma Scholarship program or pay your own
20 way shall be eligible to participate in Education Leadership
21 Oklahoma ~~program training~~ mentoring for up to three (3) years to
22 assist them in meeting the requirements of the National Board
23 certification process, free of charge.

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1 ~~H.~~ G. Subject to district board of education policy or
2 collective bargaining agreement, additional professional leave days
3 may be granted to teachers seeking National Board certification for
4 National Board certification portfolio development. During the two
5 (2) days of the additional professional days granted to teachers for
6 National Board certification portfolio development, a substitute
7 teacher shall be provided by the school district at no cost to the
8 teacher.

9 ~~I.~~ H. 1. The State Board of Education shall provide to
10 teachers who attained National Board certification prior to June 30,
11 2013, a bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)
12 annually over a ten-year period, to be paid no later than January 31
13 each year. The Board shall provide a bonus to any teacher who
14 attains National Board certification after June 30, 2013, if the
15 teacher was selected for the Education Leadership Oklahoma program
16 before June 30, 2013, or the teacher has submitted an application
17 for National Board certification to the National Board for
18 Professional Teaching Standards before June 30, 2013.

19 2. The teachers eligible to receive the annual bonus as
20 provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall receive the
21 annual bonus for the ten-year duration of their National Board
22 certification and so long as they are teaching in the classroom
23 full-time in an Oklahoma public school. No school or school
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1 district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this
2 section.

3 3. The bonus shall not be included in the calculation of the
4 teacher's salary for purposes of meeting the district or statutory
5 minimum salary schedule or for purposes of compensating Oklahoma
6 Teachers' Retirement System contributions or benefits.

7 4. Teachers eligible to receive the annual bonus as provided
8 for in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall not be eligible to
9 receive the additional salary increment for National Board
10 certification as set forth in the minimum salary schedule in Section
11 ~~§~~ 18-114.15 of this ~~act~~ title.

12 5. Teachers who attain National Board certification after June
13 30, 2013, shall be eligible to receive the additional salary
14 increments for National Board certification as set forth in the
15 minimum salary schedule in Section ~~§~~ 18-114.15 of this ~~act~~ title.

16 6. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules for a
17 process by which a National-Board-certified teacher will verify
18 that:

- 19 a. the National Board certification has not lapsed,
- 20 b. the teacher is still a full-time teacher, and
- 21 c. for teachers eligible for the bonus, the teacher has
22 not exceeded the limit of annual bonus payments as
23 provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

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1 ~~¶~~ I. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma
2 State Regents for Higher Education incorporate the National Board
3 certification portfolio development into all programs in education
4 leading to a master's level degree.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OVERSIGHT, dated
8 03/04/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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