

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 5, 2025

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 SENATE BILL NO. 554

5 By: Rader and Pugh of the  
6 Senate

7 and

8 Hasenbeck of the House

9 **[ teachers - certification - stipends - calculations**  
10 **- Revolving Fund - allocations - effective date -**  
11 **emergency ]**

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-190, as  
14 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 122, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
15 2024, Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school  
17 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in  
18 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified to teach by  
19 the State Board of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher  
20 Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for by Section 6-101  
21 of this title and by other law.

22 B. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person  
23 who:

1        1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program  
2 required by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
3 Accountability;

4        2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher  
5 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

6        3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the  
7 Board;

8        4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency  
9 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

10       5. Has successfully completed the competency examination  
11 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

12       6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a  
13 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State  
14 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history  
15 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
16 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the  
17 Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective  
18 until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history  
19 record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible  
20 for the cost of the criminal history records.

21       C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person  
22 who:

23       1. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets the requirements  
24 set forth in subsection G of this section;

1           2. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional  
2 Teaching Standards;

3           3. Holds an out-of-country certificate and meets the  
4 requirements set forth in subsection F of this section; or

5           4. Has successfully completed a competency examination used in  
6 the majority of other states or comparable customized exam and meets  
7 the requirements set forth in subsection H of this section.

8           D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial  
9 Oklahoma certification shall have on file with the Board a current  
10 Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
11 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
12 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon  
13 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue  
14 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of  
15 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person  
16 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the  
17 criminal history records.

18           E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to  
19 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the  
20 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional  
21 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher  
22 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

23           F. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person  
24 who holds a valid out-of-country certificate and meets any

1 requirements established by the Board. The certificate to teach  
2 shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most closely  
3 aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-  
4 of-country certificate.

5 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
6 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations  
7 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the  
8 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-country  
9 certificate.

10 3. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
11 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma  
12 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
13 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
14 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon  
15 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may  
16 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt  
17 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.  
18 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the  
19 cost of the criminal history record checks.

20 4. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing a process by  
21 which out-of-country certificates will be reviewed and evaluated for  
22 purposes of awarding a certificate to teach pursuant to this  
23 subsection.

24

1 G. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person  
2 who holds a valid out-of-state certificate. The certificate to  
3 teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most  
4 closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on  
5 the out-of-state certificate.

6 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
7 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations  
8 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the  
9 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state  
10 certificate.

11 3. A person who meets the requirements of this subsection shall  
12 have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history  
13 record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well  
14 as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section  
15 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the  
16 Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may issue a  
17 temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the  
18 national fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The  
19 person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost  
20 of the criminal history record checks.

21 H. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person  
22 who has successfully completed a competency exam used in a majority  
23 of the other states. The certificate to teach shall only be for  
24

1 those subject areas and grade levels that correspond with a  
2 certification area used in Oklahoma.

3 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
4 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma  
5 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
6 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
7 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon  
8 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may  
9 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt  
10 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.  
11 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the  
12 cost of the criminal history record checks.

13 I. 1. The Board may establish new levels of teacher  
14 certificates: advanced, lead, and master. Each level shall have a  
15 ~~salary increase requirement~~ stipend paid with state dollars from the  
16 lottery funds as provided in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma  
17 Statutes. The advanced certificate shall include a ~~salary increase~~  
18 stipend of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), the lead certificate  
19 shall include a ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Five Thousand Dollars  
20 (\$5,000.00), and the master certificate shall include a ~~salary~~  
21 ~~increase~~ stipend of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

22 2. A teacher who works in a school with an enrollment of forty  
23 percent (40%) or more of students who are economically disadvantaged  
24 as defined in Section 18-109.5 of this title or a school district

1 with an enrollment of fewer than one thousand students shall be paid  
2 a one-time award in addition to the ~~salary increases~~ stipends  
3 provided in paragraph 1 of this subsection:

- 4 a. One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for an  
5 advanced certificate,
- 6 b. Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for a  
7 lead certificate, and
- 8 c. Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for a master  
9 certificate.

10 3. School districts may identify and designate the highest  
11 quality teachers for advanced, lead, and master certificates.  
12 Participating districts shall submit designation plans to the State  
13 Department of Education for evaluation and approval. Districts  
14 shall have local control and flexibility in determining how to  
15 evaluate teachers and assign designations, but, at a minimum, the  
16 designation system shall include a teacher observation, out-of-  
17 classroom time, and a student performance component.

- 18 a. Teacher observation shall be based on the district's  
19 selected Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness  
20 Evaluation System (TLE) evaluation tool or an  
21 alternate method of evaluation; provided, the method  
22 is evidenced-based. Alternate methods of evaluation  
23 shall not replace the requirements of Section 6-101.16  
24 of this title.

1           b. Each school district that elects to participate in  
2           assigning advanced, lead, and master teacher  
3           certificates shall include an out-of-classroom  
4           component for its assigned teachers to allow for  
5           professional growth opportunities while staying in the  
6           classroom. How out-of-classroom time is allotted and  
7           managed shall be determined by the school district and  
8           submitted as part of its designation plan to the State  
9           Department of Education for review and approval.

10          c. Student performance measures may be determined by the  
11          district and may include, but shall not be limited to,  
12          pre- and post-tests, summative or formative, and  
13          portfolios. The school district application shall  
14          show evidence of validity and reliability of the  
15          measures.

16          Districts may use additional factors in determining which  
17          teachers are eligible to receive a designation, such as student  
18          surveys, teacher leadership responsibilities, teacher mentorship  
19          responsibilities, family surveys, demonstration of district core  
20          values, teacher peer surveys, and contributions to the broader  
21          school community. No more than ten percent (10%) of each school  
22          district's teachers may be designated as an advanced, lead, or  
23          master teacher in any given school year.



1           4. If a school district chooses to participate in this program,  
2 the state shall provide the ~~increased salary~~ stipend amounts  
3 indicated for advanced, lead, and master certificates in paragraph 1  
4 of this subsection ~~above the base pay~~.

5           5. School districts that designate teachers for advanced, lead,  
6 and master certificates do not have to participate in annual TLE  
7 evaluations for the designated teachers.

8           6. School districts may designate teachers for advanced, lead,  
9 or master certificates two times per year, once prior to the  
10 beginning of the school year, and once prior to the beginning of the  
11 second semester. Teachers statewide who receive these designations  
12 shall be placed in professional development cohorts and provided  
13 additional training opportunities from the State Department of  
14 Education.

15           7. After initial approval by the State Department of Education,  
16 the Department shall review and validate each participating school  
17 district's teacher evaluation system biennially.

18           8. The State Department of Education shall annually report the  
19 school districts participating in the program, the number of  
20 advanced, lead, and master certificates awarded, and the total  
21 amount in state funding that was distributed to teachers from the  
22 Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund created in Section 6-190.2 of  
23 this title.

24

1 9. The selection criteria; designation of advanced, lead, or  
2 master teachers; and any associated ~~salary increases~~ stipend amounts  
3 shall not be subject to collective bargaining.

4 10. Stipends provided pursuant to this subsection shall not be  
5 included in the calculation of the teacher's salary for purposes of  
6 meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for  
7 purposes of calculating Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma  
8 contributions or benefits.

9 J. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement  
10 a renewal schedule and associated fees for advanced, lead, and  
11 master teaching certificates. The rules shall allow a teacher that  
12 no longer meets the requirements of an advanced, lead, or master  
13 teaching certificate to make application for the standard teaching  
14 certificate.

15 K. The terms of the contracts issued to those holding advanced,  
16 lead, and master teaching certificates shall include the following:

17 1. Advanced: an additional five (5) days to be used to  
18 strengthen instructional leadership. A person with an advanced  
19 teaching certificate shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend  
20 of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) or the district's daily rate  
21 of pay, whichever is higher, in addition to the salary for which the  
22 teacher qualifies pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This  
23 ~~increase~~ stipend shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery  
24 funds as provided in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma

1 Statutes and shall be paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly  
2 to teachers through school districts;

3 2. Lead: an additional ten (10) days to be used to strengthen  
4 instructional leadership. A person with a lead teaching certificate  
5 shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Five Thousand  
6 Dollars (\$5,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever  
7 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies  
8 pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This ~~increase~~ stipend  
9 shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery funds as provided  
10 in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes and shall be  
11 paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly to teachers through  
12 school districts; and

13 3. Master: an additional fifteen (15) days to be used to  
14 strengthen leadership. A person with a master teaching certificate  
15 shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Ten Thousand  
16 Dollars (\$10,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever  
17 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies  
18 pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This ~~increase~~ stipend  
19 shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery funds as provided  
20 in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes and shall be  
21 paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly to teachers through  
22 school districts.

23 If a person with an advanced, lead, or master teaching  
24 certificate changes school districts during the life of the

1 certificate, the terms of the contracts required in this subsection  
2 shall be subject to approval by the new employing school district.

3 L. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the Department shall  
4 make the teaching certificates provided for in this section  
5 available for any person who has received a recommendation from his  
6 or her school district and who meets the eligibility criteria as  
7 outlined in each school district's teacher evaluation system  
8 provided for in subsection I of this section.

9 M. The funding necessary for the administration of this section  
10 shall be provided from the Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund  
11 created in Section 6-190.2 of this title. If funding for the  
12 administration of the teaching certificates listed in subsection I  
13 is not available, the Department shall not be required to fulfill  
14 the requirements listed in subsections I, K, and L of this section.

15 N. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to  
16 implement the provisions of Section 6-180 et seq. of this title.

17 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 359, O.S.L.  
18 2022, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 122, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S.  
19 Supp. 2024, Section 6-190.2), is amended to read as follows:

20 Section 6-190.2. A. There is hereby created in the State  
21 Treasury a revolving fund for the State Department of Education to  
22 be designated the "Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund". The  
23 revolving fund shall be a continuing fund, without legislative  
24 appropriation, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall be

1 under the control and management of the State Department of  
2 Education. Expenditures from the Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund  
3 shall be budgeted and expended as provided for in subsection B of  
4 this section.

5 B. The State Department of Education shall utilize the funds  
6 for the program outlined in Section 6-190 of this title. Funding  
7 shall be allocated to school districts to provide the ~~increased~~  
8 ~~salary~~ stipend amounts indicated for advanced, lead, and master  
9 certificates as provided for in subsection I of Section 6-190 of  
10 this title on a first-come, first-served basis until the cash is  
11 exhausted for the school year.

12 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

13 SECTION 4. 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.

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
18 March 5, 2025 - DO PASS

19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24