

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 HOUSE BILL 2893

By: Townley

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
8 Section 6-127A, which relates to public school  
9 paraprofessionals; exempting certain  
10 paraprofessionals from certain educational  
11 requirements; exempting certain teachers from certain  
12 additional educational requirements; providing for  
13 codification; providing an effective date; and  
14 declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-127A, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 6-127A. A. The Oklahoma Legislature recognizes that  
19 public school paraprofessionals play an important role in educating  
20 school children and in assisting teachers. The Legislature further  
21 recognizes the increasing role of public school paraprofessionals in  
22 the school system in light of teacher shortages. To achieve the  
23 goal of excellence for all persons who have an impact on student  
24 learning, it is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that public

1 school paraprofessionals be afforded career opportunities and  
2 economic incentives through a career development program.

3 B. The State Board of Education shall adopt a program for the  
4 career development of public school paraprofessionals. The purpose  
5 of the program is to provide to public school paraprofessionals a  
6 system of career development which is based upon education and  
7 training advancement to encourage excellence among public school  
8 paraprofessionals. Public school paraprofessionals who hold a  
9 bachelor's degree in education or education studies shall be deemed  
10 to have satisfied any rule that requires additional professional  
11 education coursework from an institution of higher education under  
12 the adopted program. Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
13 require public school paraprofessionals to participate in the career  
14 development program.

15 C. The board of education of a school district shall have  
16 authority to extend an existing contract with a public school  
17 paraprofessional that provides for the payment of compensation for  
18 paraprofessional services rendered for the same time period during  
19 which the paraprofessional is also assigned to the school district  
20 for practice teaching as a student teacher.

21 D. For the purposes of this section, a public school  
22 paraprofessional is an employee of a school district whose position  
23 is either instructional in nature, or who delivers other direct  
24 services to students and/or their parents. A public school

1 paraprofessional serves in a position for which a teacher or another  
2 professional has the ultimate responsibility for the design,  
3 implementation, and evaluation of the individual educational  
4 programs or related services and student performance.

5 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-213 of Title 70, unless there  
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 Teachers who hold a bachelor's degree in education or education  
9 studies shall be deemed to have satisfied any State Board of  
10 Education rule that requires teachers to complete additional  
11 professional education coursework from an institution of higher  
12 education as a condition to obtain, renew, or satisfy any other  
13 professional development requirement for an emergency certificate,  
14 alternate placement teaching certificate, or standard certificate.

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

16 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
17 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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21 60-1-10531 AQH 12/31/24

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