

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1342
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Author:	Sen. Seifried
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Bill Analysis

SB 1342 creates the Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Academy to be administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to provide tuition and mandatory fee assistance to individuals to earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited teacher preparation program if they commit to teach in a public school in one of the critical shortage subject areas identified by the State Department of Education. It requires the individual to teach in the critical shortage subject area in a public school for one year for each academic year the individual received assistance. It directs the Department to identify the top five critical shortage subject areas by July 30, 2024, and every three years thereafter. It states that eligibility of a student who has already entered the program will not be affected by removal of a subject area from the list identified by the Department.

The bill provides for initial and retention eligibility and requires a participating individual to execute an agreement. It prohibits assistance for courses or postsecondary units taken more than five years after the eligible student's first semester. The measure requires an individual who has received assistance and who fails to comply with the executed agreement to repay an amount of assistance, unless the State Regents provides a waiver for hardship circumstances. It directs institutions of higher education within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to develop and promote, in coordination with surrounding public school districts, a public awareness program to make students and parents aware of the academy. It requires the State Regents to submit a report by July 30, 2025, and annually thereafter with information on the academy. The bill also creates the Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Academy Revolving Fund.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor