

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1576

By: Caldwell of the House

and

Stanislawski of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-186), which relates to criteria for approval and accreditation of teacher education programs; requiring Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability to adopt rules relating to digital technologies for program accreditation by certain date; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-192, as amended by Section 18, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-192), which relates to professional development procedures for teachers; requiring procedures to include digital teaching and learning standards; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Teacher education

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-186), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-186. A. Criteria for the approval and accreditation of teacher education programs in Oklahoma institutions of higher education shall include, but not be limited to, substantial evidence that persons who enter teacher education programs demonstrate:

1. Competency in the oral and written use of the English language;

2. A minimum grade point average as established by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability; and

3. The ability to meet criteria established pursuant to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act at the completion of the teacher education program and provide evidence of having worked with children or youth in a variety of situations.

Criteria shall also include a greater emphasis upon field work in accredited schools by prospective teachers under the supervision of higher education faculty.

B. ~~The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall work with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various institutions of higher education in developing guidelines for a paid teacher internship program which may be offered at each institution for prospective teachers. The purpose of each program shall be to provide mentorship and support for prospective teachers. Students enrolled in a teacher education program shall be eligible to participate in the program. Only students who have completed the minimum nonsalaried teacher internship requirement as established by the institution shall be eligible to participate in the paid teacher internship program.

C. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature that the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability work with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional development during their tenure at an institution of higher education to ensure that the future teachers of this state are taught by professional educators fully trained in their area of expertise. Each approved or accredited program of teacher education shall have a system for documenting and reporting the annual professional development activities of all teacher education faculty members. Faculty professional development reports shall be reviewed by the Commission along with professional development activities as a normal part of the accreditation process.

It is further declared to be the intent of the Legislature that such professional development plans provide alternative means of education including, but not limited to:

1. Professional development programs;
2. Higher education courses;
3. Exchange programs with public school classroom teachers, administrators, and other school personnel; and
4. Programs whereby all full-time teacher education faculty members directly involved in the teacher education process, including all administrators of the teacher education program, are required to serve in a state accredited public school for at least ten (10) clock hours per school year in responsibilities related to their respective teacher education teaching fields.

All public school systems shall participate in the programs provided for in this subsection when needed.

D. ~~The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall adopt rules requiring specific improvements to strengthen the screening of student applicants and field activity and placement as set out in subsection A of this section. Such rules shall be reviewed and amended or readopted by the Commission at least once every five (5) years.

E. To assist the Commission in setting specific requirements as set out in subsections A and D of this section, the Commission shall annually prepare a statistical report showing the percentage of students from each of the Oklahoma institutions of higher education who have successfully completed or who have failed the competency examination for certification. The annual report shall show the percentages for each institution of higher education and each assessment area separately by student degree status and shall be distributed annually to each member of the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the governing board of each institution which has an approved or state accredited teacher education program, the State Board of Education, the State Board of Career and Technology Education and the Legislature.

F. By November 1, 2017, the Commission shall adopt rules requiring coursework or training in the use of digital and other instructional technologies as a requisite for program accreditation.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-192, as amended by Section 18, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-192), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-192. A. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature to establish a professional development procedure whereby all teachers in the state continue their education beyond initial certification by the state to ensure that the children of the state are taught by professional educators, fully prepared in their areas of expertise. Furthermore, such professional development procedure shall provide alternative means of education, including one or more of the following: In-service programs, higher education courses, or other alternative means of education designed to help teachers enrich their professional abilities.

B. The professional development procedure shall include digital teaching and learning standards to enhance content delivery to students and improve student achievement.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 2nd day of March, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 30th day of March, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____