

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1781

By: McCall of the House

and

Montgomery of the Senate

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7 An Act relating to student teachers; amending 70 O.S.  
8 2011, Section 1-116, as last amended by Section 1,  
9 Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section  
10 1-116), which relates to school personnel  
11 definitions; modifying term; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
12 Section 6-186, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter  
13 5, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 6-186),  
14 which relates to teacher education programs;  
15 eliminating nonsalaried teacher internship  
16 requirement; and declaring an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as  
19 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp.  
20 2018, Section 1-116), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 1-116. As used in this title:

22 1. "Teacher" means any person who is employed to serve as  
23 district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor,  
24 librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher or in any other  
instructional, supervisory or administrative capacity. The person  
shall not be deemed qualified unless the person holds a valid

1 certificate issued by and in accordance with the rules of the State  
2 Board of Education or the rules of the State Board of Career and  
3 Technology Education, to perform the particular services for which  
4 the person is employed;

5 2. "Superintendent" or "superintendent of schools" means the  
6 executive officer of the board of education and the administrative  
7 head of the school system of a district maintaining an accredited  
8 school, provided the person holds an administrator's certificate  
9 recognized by the State Board of Education;

10 3. "Principal" means any person other than a district  
11 superintendent of schools having supervisory or administrative  
12 authority over any school or school building having two or more  
13 teachers. A teaching principal shall be a principal who devotes at  
14 least one-half (1/2) the time school is in session to classroom  
15 teaching. Teaching principals shall be required to hold  
16 administrative certificates;

17 4. "Teachers" means, for purposes of complying with the State  
18 Aid Law and other statutes, but not any other provision of law,  
19 which apportion money on the basis of teaching units or the number  
20 of teachers employed or qualified, all persons holding proper  
21 certificates and connected in any capacity with the instruction of  
22 pupils;

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1           5. "Inductee" means any certified teacher who is employed in a  
2 local school to serve as a classroom teacher under the guidance and  
3 assistance of a mentor teacher or teachers;

4           6. "Student teacher" means any student who is enrolled in an  
5 institution of higher learning approved by the State Board of  
6 Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by the  
7 institution of higher learning and a board of education of a school  
8 district to perform practice teaching under the direction of a  
9 regularly employed and certified teacher. A student teacher, while  
10 serving ~~a non-salaried~~ an internship under the supervision of a  
11 certified teacher, shall be accorded the same protection of the laws  
12 as that accorded the certified teacher;

13           7. "School nurse" means a person employed full time by a board  
14 of education who is a registered nurse licensed by the Oklahoma  
15 State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education and is  
16 certified the same as a teacher by the State Board of Education.  
17 Provided, that any person who is employed as a full-time school  
18 nurse in any school district in Oklahoma who is not registered on  
19 the effective date of this act may continue to serve in the same  
20 capacity; however, such person shall, under rules adopted by the  
21 State Board of Education, attend classes in nursing and prepare to  
22 become registered.

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1 A school nurse employed by a board of education shall be  
2 accorded the same protection of laws and all other benefits accorded  
3 a certified teacher; and

4 8. "Support employee" means an employee who provides those  
5 services which are not performed by certified teachers, principals,  
6 superintendents or administrators and which are necessary for the  
7 efficient and satisfactory functioning of a school district.

8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as  
9 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 5, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp.  
10 2018, Section 6-186), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

17 2. A minimum grade point average as established by the  
18 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability; and

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

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

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

15 C. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature  
16 that the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability work  
17 with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various  
18 institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby  
19 full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional  
20 development during their tenure at an institution of higher  
21 education to ensure that the future teachers of this state are  
22 taught by professional educators fully trained in their area of  
23 expertise. Each approved or accredited program of teacher education  
24 shall have a system for documenting and reporting the annual

1 professional development activities of all teacher education faculty  
2 members. Faculty professional development reports shall be reviewed  
3 by the Commission along with professional development activities as  
4 a normal part of the accreditation process.

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

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

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

20 D. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
21 shall adopt rules requiring specific improvements to strengthen the  
22 screening of student applicants and field activity and placement as  
23 set out in subsection A of this section. Such rules shall be

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1 reviewed and amended or readopted by the Commission at least once  
2 every five (5) years.

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

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

20 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
21 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
22 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
23 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of March, 2019.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate