

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 3, 2019

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
5 BILL NO. 1781

6 By: McCall and **Hill** of the  
7 House

8 and

9 Montgomery of the Senate

10 [ **student teachers - personnel definitions - teacher  
11 education programs - nonsalaried teacher internship  
12 requirement -**

13 **emergency ]**

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as  
16 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp.  
17 2018, Section 1-116), is amended to read as follows:

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

19 1. "Teacher" means any person who is employed to serve as  
20 district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor,  
21 librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher or in any other  
22 instructional, supervisory or administrative capacity. The person  
23 shall not be deemed qualified unless the person holds a valid  
24 certificate issued by and in accordance with the rules of the State  
Board of Education or the rules of the State Board of Career and

1 Technology Education, to perform the particular services for which  
2 the person is employed;

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

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

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

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

24

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

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

20       A school nurse employed by a board of education shall be  
21 accorded the same protection of laws and all other benefits accorded  
22 a certified teacher; and

23       8. "Support employee" means an employee who provides those  
24 services which are not performed by certified teachers, principals,

1 superintendents or administrators and which are necessary for the  
2 efficient and satisfactory functioning of a school district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 B. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
22 shall work with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and  
23 the various institutions of higher education in developing  
24 guidelines for a paid teacher internship program which may be

1 offered at each institution for prospective teachers. The purpose  
2 of each program shall be to provide mentorship and support for  
3 prospective teachers. Students enrolled in a teacher education  
4 program shall be eligible to participate in the program. Only  
5 students who have completed the minimum ~~nonsalaried~~ teacher  
6 internship requirement as established by the institution shall be  
7 eligible to participate in the paid teacher internship program.

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

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

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

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

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

19 E. To assist the Commission in setting specific requirements as  
20 set out in subsections A and D of this section, the Commission shall  
21 annually prepare a statistical report showing the percentage of  
22 students from each of the Oklahoma institutions of higher education  
23 who have successfully completed or who have failed the competency  
24 examination for certification. The annual report shall show the

1 percentages for each institution of higher education and each  
2 assessment area separately by student degree status and shall be  
3 distributed annually to each member of the Commission for  
4 Educational Quality and Accountability, the Oklahoma State Regents  
5 for Higher Education, the governing board of each institution which  
6 has an approved or state accredited teacher education program, the  
7 State Board of Education, the State Board of Career and Technology  
8 Education and the Legislature.

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

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

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
17 April 3, 2019 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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