

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 1838

By: Waldron

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 6-186, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter
9 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-186),
10 which relates to teacher education programs;
11 modifying eligibility to participate in paid teacher
12 internship program; awarding one-time stipend to
13 eligible students participating in the teacher
14 internship program; and providing an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as
17 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp.
18 2020, Section 6-186), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

8 B. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
9 shall work with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and
10 the various institutions of higher education in developing
11 guidelines for a paid teacher internship program which may be
12 offered at each institution for prospective teachers. The purpose
13 of each program shall be to provide mentorship and support for
14 prospective teachers. Students enrolled in a teacher education
15 program shall be eligible to participate in the program. ~~Only~~
16 ~~students who have completed the minimum teacher internship~~
17 ~~requirement as established by the institution shall be eligible to~~
18 ~~participate in the paid teacher internship program.~~ Each eligible
19 student participating in the teacher internship program shall be
20 awarded a one-time stipend of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00).

21 C. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature
22 that the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability work
23 with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various
24 institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby

1 full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional
2 development during their tenure at an institution of higher
3 education to ensure that the future teachers of this state are
4 taught by professional educators fully trained in their area of
5 expertise. Each approved or accredited program of teacher education
6 shall have a system for documenting and reporting the annual
7 professional development activities of all teacher education faculty
8 members. Faculty professional development reports shall be reviewed
9 by the Commission along with professional development activities as
10 a normal part of the accreditation process.

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

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

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

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

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

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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. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

58-1-7115 EK 12/17/20