

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE BILL 2647

By: Baker

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teacher certification tests; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 6-182, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018, 6-187, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 50, O.S.L. 2017 and 6-189.1, as last amended by Section 15, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Sections 6-182, 6-187 and 6-189.1), which relate to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; modifying term; construing statutory provision; updating statutory references to teacher certification tests; directing Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability to adopt a nationally administered and recognized competency examination; providing for certification upon successful completion of appropriate competency examination; exempting requirement to complete competency examination; updating administering entity name; providing eligibility for certain competency examination; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-207, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 430, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 6-207), which relates to the Oklahoma Mathematics Improvement Plan; establishing stipend for successful completion of certain competency examination; modifying contents of report; and providing an effective date.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-182, as
2 last amended by Section 3, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp.
3 2018, Section 6-182), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

5 1. "Board" means the State Board of Education;

6 2. "Commission" means the Commission for Educational Quality
7 and Accountability;

8 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
9 Education;

10 4. "Professional development program" means the program
11 mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous
12 improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of
13 this state;

14 5. "Teacher education professional development committee" means
15 the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the
16 continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in
17 teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

18 6. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

19 7. "Induction" means a program that provides support,
20 mentorship and coaching to educators at the beginning of their
21 careers or as they transition to new roles within a school or
22 district. Induction programs work with inductees to assist in all
23 matters concerning classroom management and professional development
24 for that teacher. Induction programs may involve a committee of one

1 or more mentor teachers, the principal or an assistant principal of
2 the employing school, one or more administrators designated by the
3 school district board of education, a teacher educator in a college
4 or school of education of an institution of higher education or an
5 educator in a department or school outside the institution's teacher
6 education unit;

7 8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-
8 116 of this title;

9 9. "Inductee" means any certified teacher who is employed in an
10 accredited school to serve as a teacher and the school district has
11 elected to place under the guidance and assistance of a mentor
12 teacher or induction committee. Inductees shall include those
13 individuals having completed the program of the college or school of
14 education of the accredited institution of higher education from
15 which the person has been graduated, and shall have successfully
16 completed the competency examination in areas of approval in which
17 the inductee seeks certification, those individuals eligible for the
18 alternative placement teaching certificate according to Section 6-
19 122.3 of this title, and those individuals issued an emergency or
20 provisional certificate according to Section 6-187 of this title.
21 All teachers working in a new role, including classroom teachers
22 transitioning to a new role, shall be considered inductees for
23 purposes of induction programs;

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1 10. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been issued a
2 certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher
3 Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

4 11. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher who has been appointed
5 to provide guidance, support, coaching and assistance to an inductee
6 employed by the school district. A mentor teacher shall be a
7 current or former classroom teacher and have a minimum of two (2)
8 years of classroom teaching experience as a certified teacher.

9 When possible, a mentor teacher shall have participated in
10 mentor teacher professional development and have expertise in the
11 teaching field of the inductee;

12 12. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is
13 employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher
14 education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the
15 preparation of education personnel; and

16 13. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in
17 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for certification as a teacher
18 which is administered and recognized nationally and shall ~~consist of~~
19 ~~tests over general education, professional education and subject~~
20 ~~areas~~ measure the academic skills and subject-specific content
21 knowledge needed for teaching as defined by the Commission for
22 Educational Quality and Accountability. Any provision in statute
23 that delegates authority to the Commission to establish or
24 administer certification tests shall be deemed to mean "competency

1 examination" as defined in this paragraph. Any reference in statute
2 to the Oklahoma General Education Test, the Oklahoma Professional
3 Teaching Examination or the Oklahoma Subject Area Test shall be
4 deemed to mean "competency examination" as defined in this
5 paragraph.

6 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, as
7 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 50, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp.
8 2018, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

9 Section 6-187. A. Prior to ~~July 1, 2014~~ November 1, 2019, a
10 competency examination shall be adopted and administered by the
11 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and beginning July 1,~~
12 ~~2014~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability.
13 Beginning November 1, 2019, a competency examination which is
14 administered and recognized nationally shall be adopted and
15 administered by the Commission for Educational Quality and
16 Accountability for the general education, professional education and
17 various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring
18 academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or
19 teacher in the subject area the person is seeking certification to
20 teach which shall also include certification as an administrator, as
21 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

22 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
23 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
24 confidentiality of examinations.

1 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for certification
2 until successfully completing the competency examination except
3 those candidates who make application to the State Board and meet
4 the criteria for the alternative placement program pursuant to
5 Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to
6 areas of approval in which the certified teacher has successfully
7 completed the examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection
8 C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in which a
9 teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment
10 or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject
11 area test.

12 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
13 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
14 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

15 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a
16 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the
17 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully
18 completed the subject area portion of the examination.

19 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,
20 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
21 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
22 approved by the Commission.

23 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may
24 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the

1 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
2 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher
3 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified
4 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in
5 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area
6 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who
7 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited
8 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or
9 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law
10 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the
11 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through
12 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
13 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
14 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the
15 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
16 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any special
17 education teacher who has not completed a Commission-approved
18 teacher education program in elementary education or early childhood
19 education but who has successfully completed the subject area
20 portion of the examination may be certified in elementary education
21 or early childhood education for the purpose of providing direct
22 instruction and serving as the teacher of record for grading
23 purposes in special education settings only.

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1 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
2 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
3 Commission.

4 E. If a teacher candidate or teacher is a non-native-English
5 speaker, the Commission shall offer the subject area competency
6 examination in the native language of the teacher candidate or
7 teacher only if the teacher candidate or teacher is employed or has
8 been offered employment by a school district as a teacher in a
9 foreign language immersion program offered by the school district.
10 If a non-native-English speaker who has received certification in a
11 subject area after taking the subject area competency examination in
12 the native language of the speaker seeks to add a certification area
13 in the future and that person is no longer employed as a teacher in
14 a foreign language immersion program, the examination for the
15 additional certification area shall be taken in English. The State
16 Board of Education shall issue a restricted license or certificate
17 to any teacher who has completed a subject area competency
18 examination in the native language of the teacher as provided for in
19 this subsection restricting the teacher to teaching only in a
20 foreign language immersion program.

21 F. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
22 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
23 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
24 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district

1 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
2 provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is
3 unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district
4 shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or
5 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic
6 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives
7 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an
8 individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State
9 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

10 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-189.1, as
11 last amended by Section 15, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp.
12 2018, Section 6-189.1), is amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-189.1 A. Beginning July 1, 2000, no school district
14 shall employ any teacher to teach mathematics in grades seven or
15 eight, unless the teacher is certified to teach middle or secondary
16 level mathematics or has received middle level endorsement pursuant
17 to subsection B of this section.

18 B. Any teacher who became certified to teach prior to September
19 1, 1999, does not have middle or secondary level certification in
20 mathematics, and is serving in a school as a mathematics teacher for
21 grades seven or eight shall be required to obtain middle level
22 certification or middle level endorsement before September 1, 2003.
23 For such teachers, middle level certification or middle level
24 endorsement may be obtained as follows:

1 1. Middle level mathematics certification - A teacher may
2 obtain middle level certification by successfully completing the
3 appropriate ~~Oklahoma Subject Area Test~~ competency examination for
4 middle level mathematics administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for~~
5 ~~Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and
6 Accountability. The teacher shall not be required to take the
7 ~~Oklahoma Professional Teacher Examination~~ competency examination for
8 secondary students administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for~~
9 ~~Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and
10 Accountability. A teacher granted middle level certification
11 pursuant to this paragraph shall be entitled to teach mathematics in
12 grades seven and eight for high school graduation credit; and

13 2. Middle level endorsement - A teacher may obtain a middle
14 level endorsement by successfully completing a professional
15 development institute in middle level mathematics developed and
16 administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~
17 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability. Any
18 professional development institute developed pursuant to this
19 paragraph shall meet the criteria as established in subsection H of
20 this section. A teacher granted middle level endorsement pursuant
21 to this paragraph shall not be entitled to teach mathematics for
22 high school graduation credit.

23 C. Any teacher serving in a school as a mathematics teacher for
24 grade six may obtain middle level endorsement by successfully

1 completing a professional development institute in middle level
2 mathematics developed pursuant to this section. Such teacher shall
3 be eligible to participate in a professional development institute
4 in middle level mathematics developed and administered by the
5 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation one time free of charge.

6 D. Any teacher seeking middle level certification or middle
7 level endorsement pursuant to subsection B of this section shall be
8 eligible to take the ~~Oklahoma Subject Area Test~~ competency
9 examination in middle level mathematics one time free of charge
10 after July 1, 2000, or participate in a professional development
11 institute in middle level mathematics developed and administered by
12 the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
13 Educational Quality and Accountability one time free of charge after
14 July 1, 2000.

15 E. A teacher who is granted middle level certification in
16 mathematics, pursuant to subsection B of this section, may teach
17 grade nine only if the teacher successfully completes the ~~Oklahoma~~
18 ~~Professional Teacher Examination~~ competency examination for
19 secondary students.

20 F. A teacher who is granted middle level endorsement pursuant
21 to subsection B or C of this section may teach mathematics courses
22 in grades seven or eight for high school credit only if the teacher
23 has completed a minimum of twenty-four college credit semester hours
24 of mathematics as specified by the State Department of Education.

1 G. Any teacher who became certified to teach prior to September
2 1, 1999, did not have middle or secondary level certification in
3 mathematics and successfully completed the appropriate Oklahoma
4 Subject Area Test for middle level mathematics between July 1, 1999,
5 and July 1, 2000, shall be granted a middle level certificate
6 pursuant to subsection B of this section.

7 H. 1. Any professional development institute in middle level
8 mathematics developed pursuant to this section and administered by
9 the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
10 Educational Quality and Accountability shall:

- 11 a. consist of a minimum of thirty (30) clock hours,
- 12 b. be competency based,
- 13 c. emphasize effective learning practices,
- 14 d. require collaboration among participants, and
- 15 e. require each participant to prepare a work product
16 which can be utilized in the classroom by the
17 participant.

18 2. Any professional development institute in middle level
19 mathematics developed pursuant to this section and administered by
20 the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for
21 Educational Quality and Accountability shall be chosen through a
22 competitive bid process, be reviewed by a professional development
23 committee and other constituencies, and be subject to peer review.
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1 Invitations to bid for a professional development institute shall be
2 open to any public or private entity.

3 I. Beginning July 1, 2013, any teacher with certification or
4 endorsement to teach at the secondary level may teach the subject
5 area in which the teacher has received certification or endorsement
6 in grades five and six.

7 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-207, as
8 amended by Section 1, Chapter 430, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018,
9 Section 6-207), is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 6-207. A. The State Board of Education shall establish
11 the Oklahoma Mathematics Improvement Program. The purpose of the
12 program is to improve student mastery of the subject matter
13 standards adopted by the State Board of Education for sixth-grade
14 mathematics through Algebra I by enhancing sixth-, seventh- and
15 eighth-grade public school teachers' mastery of the subject matter
16 content and process skills.

17 B. For purposes of this section, "middle-level mathematics"
18 means the subject matter standards for sixth- through eighth-grade
19 mathematics and Algebra I.

20 C. Each sixth-, seventh-, or eighth-grade public school teacher
21 of a middle-level mathematics course who completes a professional
22 development program approved by the State Board of Education, as
23 authorized in subsection E of this section, shall receive a stipend
24 in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) if, prior or

1 subsequent to completion of the professional development program,
2 the teacher successfully completes the middle-level/intermediate
3 mathematics ~~Oklahoma Subject Area Test~~ competency examination
4 administered by the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~
5 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability. The State
6 Board of Education shall provide the stipend to qualifying teachers
7 who meet the requirements of this section. The stipend shall not be
8 included in the calculation of the teacher's salary for purposes of
9 meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for
10 purposes of calculating Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma
11 contributions or benefits.

12 D. The State Department of Education shall issue a request for
13 proposals on or before October 1, 2005, seeking applications for the
14 Oklahoma Mathematics Improvement Program. The State Department of
15 Education shall review the applications for compliance with the
16 established requirements.

17 E. The State Board of Education may approve programs that meet
18 the requirements set forth in this subsection. Each participating
19 teacher shall take a preassessment to establish current subject
20 matter knowledge, and, based on the results of the preassessment,
21 the teacher will participate in one of the three programs listed
22 below:

23 1. Mathematics academies consisting of a minimum of forty (40)
24 contact hours of training and twenty (20) contact hours of follow-up

1 training through lesson study with identified mathematics
2 specialists on-site and through video technology.

3 The mathematics academies shall incorporate both content
4 knowledge and process knowledge that shall be modeled for teachers
5 in the areas of problem-solving, reasoning, and critical thinking as
6 applied to the mathematical concepts in the subject matter
7 standards. The ultimate goal of the mathematics academies shall be
8 to significantly increase the number of children becoming proficient
9 in mathematics as demonstrated on assessments administered pursuant
10 to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act. The mathematics
11 academies shall be accepted for professional development purposes
12 and shall be defined as continuing education experiences that
13 consist of a minimum of forty (40) clock hours. The mathematics
14 academies shall be designed to provide instruction that includes
15 peer coaching;

16 2. Other programs including customized higher education courses
17 and/or on-line courses similar in scope and nature to those
18 described in this subsection designed to improve middle school
19 mathematics knowledge including Algebra I, as approved by the State
20 Board of Education; and

21 3. Small learning community lesson studies facilitated by a
22 mathematics coach and utilizing the Internet and video technology,
23 as approved by the State Board of Education.

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1 F. On or before December 15, 2005, the State Department of
2 Education shall forward applications that the Department has
3 determined meet the requirements of this section to the State Board
4 of Education. On or before February 1, 2006, the Board shall award,
5 through a competitive bid process, one or more grants for
6 professional development programs approved by the Department.

7 G. The State Board of Education shall contract for independent
8 evaluations of programs funded pursuant to this section.

9 H. Beginning June 30, 2006, and each year thereafter for which
10 the Oklahoma Mathematics Improvement Program is funded, the State
11 Board of Education shall prepare and submit a report to the
12 Legislature and the Governor containing:

13 1. Descriptions of professional development programs approved
14 and funded through the Oklahoma Mathematics Improvement Program;

15 2. Number and amount of grants awarded;

16 3. Number of teachers completing approved programs;

17 4. Number of teachers successfully completing the ~~Oklahoma~~
18 ~~Subject Area Test~~ competency examination for middle
19 level/intermediate mathematics after completion of a program created
20 pursuant to this section;

21 5. Amount of stipends paid to teachers pursuant to this
22 section; and
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1 6. Student achievement data for students in classes taught by
2 teachers completing one of the program options authorized pursuant
3 to this section.

4 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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