

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1038

By: Thompson and Hall of the
Senate

and

Wallace and Hilbert of the
House

An Act relating to teacher education; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1-116), which relates to positions in a school system; modifying definition of student teacher to allow certain compensation; prohibiting compensation from being considered for certain purposes; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-186), which relates to teacher education programs; removing language allowing only students who have completed certain requirement to participate in certain paid internship; updating statutory reference; 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 1-116, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1-116), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-116. As used in this title:

1. "Teacher" means any person who is employed to serve as district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor, 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 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 Technology Education, to perform the particular services for which the person is employed;

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

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

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

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

6. "Student teacher" means any student who is enrolled in an institution of higher learning approved by the State Board of Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by the institution of higher learning and a board of education of a school district to perform practice teaching under the direction of a regularly employed and certified teacher. A student teacher, while serving an internship under the supervision of a certified teacher,

shall be accorded the same protection of the laws as that accorded the certified teacher and shall be eligible to receive compensation beginning on the first day of the internship for up to one full school year; provided, however, that such compensation shall not be considered compensation for purposes of teacher retirement or the minimum salary schedule;

7. "School nurse" means a person employed full time by a board of education who is a registered nurse licensed by the Oklahoma State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education and is certified the same as a teacher by the State Board of Education. Provided, that any person who is employed as a full-time school nurse in any school district in Oklahoma who is not registered on ~~the effective date of this act~~ July 2, 1971, may continue to serve in the same capacity; however, such person shall, under rules adopted by the State Board of Education, attend classes in nursing and prepare to become registered.

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

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

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

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 Senate the 17th day of May, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 19th day of May, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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: _____