

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 1038

6 By: Thompson and Hall of the  
7 Senate

8 and

9 Wallace and Hilbert of the  
10 House

11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

12 An Act relating to teacher education; amending 70  
13 O.S. 2011, Section 1-116, as last amended by Section  
14 1, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020,  
15 Section 1-116), which relates to positions in a  
16 school system; modifying definition of student  
17 teacher to allow certain compensation; prohibiting  
18 compensation from being considered for certain  
19 purposes; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-186, as  
20 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 273, O.S.L. 2019  
21 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-186), which relates to  
22 teacher education programs; removing language  
23 allowing only students who have completed certain  
24 requirement to participate in certain paid  
internship; updating statutory reference; providing  
an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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:

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

2 1. "Teacher" means any person who is employed to serve as  
3 district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor,  
4 librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher or in any other  
5 instructional, supervisory or administrative capacity. The person  
6 shall not be deemed qualified unless the person holds a valid  
7 certificate issued by and in accordance with the rules of the State  
8 Board of Education or the rules of the State Board of Career and  
9 Technology Education, to perform the particular services for which  
10 the person is employed;

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

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

23 4. "Teachers" means, for purposes of complying with the State  
24 Aid Law and other statutes, but not any other provision of law,

1 which apportion money on the basis of teaching units or the number  
2 of teachers employed or qualified, all persons holding proper  
3 certificates and connected in any capacity with the instruction of  
4 pupils;

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

8 6. "Student teacher" means any student who is enrolled in an  
9 institution of higher learning approved by the State Board of  
10 Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by the  
11 institution of higher learning and a board of education of a school  
12 district to perform practice teaching under the direction of a  
13 regularly employed and certified teacher. A student teacher, while  
14 serving an internship under the supervision of a certified teacher,  
15 shall be accorded the same protection of the laws as that accorded  
16 the certified teacher and shall be eligible to receive compensation  
17 beginning on the first day of the internship for up to one full  
18 school year; provided, however, that such compensation shall not be  
19 considered compensation for purposes of teacher retirement or the  
20 minimum salary schedule;

21 7. "School nurse" means a person employed full time by a board  
22 of education who is a registered nurse licensed by the Oklahoma  
23 State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education and is  
24 certified the same as a teacher by the State Board of Education.

1 Provided, that any person who is employed as a full-time school  
2 nurse in any school district in Oklahoma who is not registered on  
3 ~~the effective date of this act~~ July 2, 1971, may continue to serve  
4 in the same capacity; however, such person shall, under rules  
5 adopted by the State Board of Education, attend classes in nursing  
6 and prepare to become registered.

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

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

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

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

21 1. Competency in the oral and written use of the English  
22 language;

23 2. A minimum grade point average as established by the  
24 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.~~

19           C. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature  
20 that the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability work  
21 with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the various  
22 institutions of higher education in establishing a procedure whereby  
23 full-time teacher education faculty continue their professional  
24 development during their tenure at an institution of higher

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

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

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

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

24

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

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

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

24 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

1       SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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