

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 SENATE BILL 1338

By: Montgomery

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to alternative teacher certification;
8 amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as last
9 amended by Section 2, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70
10 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-122.3), which relates to
11 the criteria for alternative teacher certification;
12 requiring the State Department of Education to
13 reimburse certain applicants upon successful
14 completion of certain courses; allowing certain
15 public school districts to develop certain
16 professional development courses; providing an
17 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as
20 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp.
21 2019, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 6-122.3. A. The State Board of Education shall grant
23 an alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes
24 application to the Board and meets the following criteria:

- 25 1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
26 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
27 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has

1 attained a retention grade point average of not less
2 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

3 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
4 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
5 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree
6 or a master of library science degree, from an
7 institution accredited by a national or regional
8 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
9 Secretary of the United States Department of
10 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
11 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
12 degrees, or

13 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
14 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
15 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
16 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
17 to an area of certification as determined by the State
18 Board of Education, and

19 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b
20 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency
21 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an
22 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
23 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
24 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-

1 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
2 Department of Career and Technology Education;

3 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by
4 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)
5 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject
6 matter and the number of clock or semester hours required for the
7 professional education component for each person making application
8 for an alternative placement teaching certificate based on the
9 criteria of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

10 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of
11 six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours and a maximum of
12 eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock
13 hours for the professional education component. Provided, however,
14 that if any component of this paragraph can only be met through
15 taking courses at an institution of higher education, the State
16 Department of Education shall reimburse an applicant for tuition and
17 fees upon successful completion of the courses. Reimbursement of
18 tuition and fees associated with taking courses to fulfill the
19 requirements of this paragraph shall be made available to any
20 applicants who are taking courses as of the effective date of this
21 act and thereafter.

22 A public school district individually or public school districts
23 that have entered into an interlocal cooperative agreement pursuant
24 to Section 5-117b of this title may develop professional development

1 courses in pedagogical principles and classroom management to
2 fulfill the provisions of this paragraph.

3 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
4 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
5 subsection E of this section;

6 3. Has passed the general education and subject area portions
7 of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this
8 title in the area of specialization for which certification is
9 sought; and

10 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
11 district in this state offering employment in the area of
12 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
13 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
14 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
15 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
16 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
17 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
18 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
19 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes
20 of Section 6-195 of this title.

21 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
22 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
23 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district
24 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of

1 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
2 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
3 placement program.

4 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

5 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
6 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
7 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
8 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
9 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed
10 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
11 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

12 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an
13 Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard
14 certification requirements within three (3) years; and

15 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
16 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
17 other inductees.

18 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
19 requirements for certification and, upon demonstration by an
20 individual of specific competency in the subject area of
21 specialization, may grant a certificate to the individual. The
22 State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant
23 exceptions.

1 E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
2 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
3 for standard certification.

4 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
5 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
6 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
7 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be
8 limited to two hundred seventy (270) clock hours of classroom
9 teaching per semester.

10 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
11 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
12 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
13 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

14 H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
15 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any
16 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in
17 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
18 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,
19 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
20 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
21 section to be:

22 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
23 qualification; and

1 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
2 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
3 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
4 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any
5 person seeking standard certification through an alternative
6 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
7 during regular semesters if offered.

8 I. The criteria specified in subsection H of this section can
9 be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more
10 institutions of higher education.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2020.

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.

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