

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

SENATE BILL 194

By: Bice of the Senate

and

Miller of the House

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teacher candidates; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.508F, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 60, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 1210.508F), which relates to reading competencies for teachers; removing language requiring certain teacher candidates to pass certain assessment; 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 1210.508F, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 60, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 1210.508F), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508F. A. The State Board of Education shall ensure that the reading competencies for elementary teachers are included in the competencies for special education teachers.

B. The State Board of Education and the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall ensure that all

1 teachers of early childhood education, elementary education, and  
2 special education are provided quality training in intervention,  
3 instruction, and remediation strategies in order to meet the needs  
4 of students in kindergarten through third grade who are determined  
5 to be at risk of reading difficulties. In addition, quality  
6 education for prospective teachers shall be provided in research-  
7 based instructional strategies for instruction, assessment and  
8 intervention for literacy development for all students, including  
9 advanced readers, typically developing readers and struggling  
10 readers who are coping with a range of challenges, including, but  
11 not limited to, English learners and learners with handicapping  
12 conditions and learning disabilities (including dyslexia). Quality  
13 training shall include guidance from professional resources such as  
14 the Report of the National Reading Panel, Response to Intervention  
15 guidelines and professional organizations such as the Council for  
16 Exceptional Children, International Dyslexia Association,  
17 International Literacy Association, National Council of Teachers of  
18 English and National Association for the Education of Young  
19 Children.

20 C. All institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
21 Education that offer elementary, early childhood education, or  
22 special education programs approved by the Commission for  
23 Educational Quality and Accountability shall incorporate into those  
24 programs the requirement that teacher candidates study the five

1 elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness,  
2 phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Teacher  
3 candidates shall study strategies including, but not limited to,  
4 instruction that is explicitly taught, sequenced, multimodal  
5 (reading, writing, speaking, listening, hands-on, etc.),  
6 multidisciplinary and reflective to adapt for individual learners.

7 D. Effective July 1, 2010, teacher candidates enrolled in an  
8 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in  
9 ~~an elementary, early childhood education, or a~~ special education  
10 program approved by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
11 Accountability shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive  
12 assessment to measure their teaching skills in the area of reading  
13 instruction. The assessment shall be developed and administered by  
14 the institutions that offer ~~elementary, early childhood education,~~  
15 ~~or~~ special education programs that lead to certification. The  
16 assessment shall measure the knowledge and understanding of the  
17 teacher candidate in the teaching of the five elements of reading  
18 instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency,  
19 vocabulary, and comprehension. The results of the assessment shall  
20 be reported annually by the institution to the Commission for  
21 Educational Quality and Accountability as a part of the required  
22 annual report for the institution. The Commission shall include the  
23 data in the annual report to the Oklahoma Legislature as required  
24 pursuant to Section 6-186 of this title. It is the intent of the

1 Legislature to ensure that teachers graduating from institutions  
2 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education have the  
3 knowledge and skills to effectively teach reading to all children.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019.

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

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