

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 4, 2023

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
4 BILL NO. 2679

By: Baker, West (Tammy), and
Waldron of the House

5 and

6 Rader of the Senate

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9 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70
10 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, which relates to the
11 teacher certification pathways pilot program;
12 modifying provider program requirements; updating
13 statutory citation; requiring provider to submit
14 certain annual report; modifying end date for pilot
15 program; providing an effective date; and declaring
16 an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 6-133. A. As used in this section:

21 1. "Provider" means an eligible entity that seeks or has
22 obtained approval of an alternative teacher preparation program
23 consistent with this section; and

24 2. "Program" means content provided by a provider that leads
toward licensure in a specific content area.

1 B. The State Board of Education shall identify providers to
2 implement new and innovative pathways toward teacher certification
3 on a pilot program basis. Providers seeking to participate in the
4 pilot program shall submit applications to the State Board of
5 Education.

6 C. A provider chosen by the State Board of Education to
7 participate in the pilot program shall offer a program that:

8 1. Provides evidence and history of fiscal solvency, capacity,
9 operation, and program effectiveness;

10 2. Provides evidence of necessary infrastructure to provide
11 accurate, timely, and secure data for the purpose of admission,
12 teacher candidate monitoring, testing, and certification
13 recommendations;

14 3. Has policies and procedures in place ensuring the security
15 of teacher candidate records under applicable laws and regulations;

16 4. Has the instructional capacity ~~or~~ within an existing novice
17 teacher support program, the ability to obtain the instructional
18 capacity, or has established a partnership with an accredited higher
19 education institution to provide adequate instruction in accordance
20 with this subsection;

21 5. Offers an instructional phase that provides intensive
22 preparation before the teacher candidates assume classroom
23 responsibilities;

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1 6. Offers a research-based and results-oriented approach
2 focused on best teaching practices to increase student achievement
3 and growth measured against state academic standards;

4 7. Provides assessment, supervision, and evaluation of teacher
5 candidates to determine their specific needs throughout the program
6 and to support efforts to successfully complete the program;

7 8. Provides intensive and ongoing professional development
8 opportunities that accelerate a teacher candidate's professional
9 growth, support student learning, and provide a workplace
10 orientation, professional staff development, and mentoring;

11 9. Offers peer review focused on standards of professional
12 practice and continuous professional growth; and

13 10. Provides a process to review a teacher candidate's final
14 competency of required certification content standards that leads to
15 a potential candidate being recommended for teacher certification in
16 accordance with subsection F of this section.

17 D. The State Board of Education shall ensure that providers
18 approved to participate in the pilot program allow teacher
19 candidates to demonstrate pedagogy and content standard proficiency
20 in school-based programs and through other nontraditional means.
21 Nontraditional means may include, but not be limited to, previous
22 work experience, teacher experience, educator evaluations, industry-
23 recognized certifications, and other essentially equivalent
24 demonstrations.

1 E. If the State Board of Education determines that a provider
2 fails to meet or is deficient in any of the requirements of this
3 section, it may suspend or revoke the approval of the provider after
4 providing notification of the deficiencies and an opportunity to
5 remedy the deficiencies.

6 F. A teacher candidate that completes a program offered by an
7 approved provider shall be eligible for certification, provided he
8 or she meets the certification requirements set forth in Section 6-
9 187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title in the area of
10 specialization for which certification is sought and is recommended
11 for certification by the approved provider.

12 G. The State Board of Education shall issue a certificate to
13 teach to any person who meets the requirements set forth in this
14 section and who has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
15 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
16 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
17 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The
18 person applying for the certificate shall be responsible for the
19 cost of the criminal history ~~records~~ record checks.

20 H. A provider shall submit a report to the State Department of
21 Education after one (1) year of operation showing the percentage of
22 teacher candidates who have completed the program and who have
23 successfully completed or who have failed the competency
24 examinations for certification and the provider's efforts to help

1 candidates successfully pass the examinations. A provider shall
2 annually submit ~~evidence~~ a report to the State Department of
3 Education ~~after the pilot year with evidence of~~ outlining the
4 success of the program.

5 I. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to
6 implement the provisions of this section.

7 J. The pilot program created in this section shall end no later
8 than July 1, ~~2024~~ 2026.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

14 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
15 April 4, 2023 - DO PASS

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