

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1598

By: Paxton

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to school employees; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-116, which relates to defining positions in a school system; modifying definitions; 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. 2021, 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 a classroom teacher or in any other instructional, supervisory or administrative capacity. The person shall not be deemed qualified unless the person who~~ 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;~~

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

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

13 4. "Teachers" means, ~~for purposes of complying with the State~~
14 ~~Aid Law and other statutes, but not any other provision of law,~~
15 ~~which apportion money on the basis of teaching units or the number~~
16 ~~of teachers employed or qualified,~~ all persons holding employed to
17 serve as classroom teachers who hold proper valid certificates and
18 connected in any capacity with the instruction of pupils issued by
19 and in accordance with the rules of the of the State Board of
20 Education or the State Board of Career and Technology Education;

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

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

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

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

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

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

13
14 59-2-2657 EB 1/10/2024 1:15:32 PM

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25