

1                           **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2                           February 26, 2025

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR  
5 SENATE BILL NO. 212

By: Seifried

6

7 [ teacher preparation - TeachForwardOK - proposals -  
8 application - approval - grants - funds - reports -  
9 response - promulgation of rules - codification -  
10 effective date -  
11 emergency ]

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

13         SECTION 1.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-186.1 of Title 70, unless  
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16         A. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
17 shall establish and maintain a two-year pilot program to be known as  
18 TeachForwardOK to provide new, high-quality pathways to enter the  
19 teaching profession and increase the number of teachers in this  
20 state's workforce.

21         B. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act,  
22 the Commission shall issue a request for proposals to select  
23 technical assistance providers to evaluate teacher education  
24 programs in institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma

1 State System of Higher Education that are accredited by the  
2 Commission pursuant to Section 6-186 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
3 Statutes.

4 C. To participate in TeachForwardOK, a teacher education  
5 program shall submit an application to the Commission in the manner  
6 and on a form prescribed by the Commission. The Commission shall  
7 establish criteria to approve applicants. Subject to the  
8 availability of funds, the Commission shall award grants to approved  
9 applicant teacher education programs. The Commission may use any  
10 gifts, grants, devises, and donations from any public or private  
11 source and monies appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of  
12 implementing the provisions of this section. Grants shall be used  
13 as incentives to participate and to contract with a technical  
14 assistance provider selected by the Commission pursuant to  
15 subsection B of this section. The provider shall evaluate, at a  
16 minimum, the following:

17 1. Teacher candidate recruitment and completion;

18 2. Whether the teacher education program prepares teacher  
19 candidates effectively;

20 3. Whether the teacher education program meets workforce needs  
21 in this state; and

22 4. Innovative ways to recruit nontraditional teacher candidates  
23 unique to the teacher education program.

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1       D. 1. Evaluation reports prepared by a technical assistance  
2 provider shall be electronically submitted to the approved applicant  
3 teacher education program and the Commission.

4       2. Within ninety (90) days of receiving the report, the teacher  
5 education program shall electronically submit a report response to  
6 the Commission detailing how the teacher education program plans to  
7 address the evaluation report's findings. The report response shall  
8 prioritize innovative approaches to provide new, high-quality  
9 pathways to enter the teaching profession and increase the number of  
10 teachers in this state's workforce including, but not limited to:

11           a. developing a system for recruiting eligible teacher  
12 candidates, such as:

13              (1) a pathway for high school students to become  
14 paraprofessionals,

15              (2) a pathway for paraprofessionals to become  
16 teachers, and

17              (3) a pathway for individuals with bachelor's degrees  
18 to become teachers,

19           b. developing a curriculum that includes intensive on-  
20 the-job training for teacher candidates,

21           c. identifying a mastery-based evaluation system to  
22 determine when eligible teacher candidates have  
23 mastered the skills and competencies necessary for  
24 graduation from an apprenticeship program and

1                   outlining benchmarks that teacher candidates must meet  
2                   as they progress through on-the-job training,  
3                   d. offering a schedule that enables teacher candidates to  
4                   work full time in a public school district while  
5                   participating in an apprenticeship program and  
6                   allowing paraprofessionals to continue in their  
7                   positions, or  
8                   e. providing a flexible schedule for paraprofessionals  
9                   participating in an apprenticeship program to support  
10                  their success in the program that will facilitate  
11                  course completion and on-the-job training.

12                  E. Subject to the availability of funding, the Commission shall  
13                  review the report responses submitted pursuant to subsection D of  
14                  this section and select one approved applicant teacher education  
15                  program to receive Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) to  
16                  enact the initiatives outlined in the program's report response.

17                  F. By December 31, 2027, the Commission shall electronically  
18                  submit a report of TeachForwardOK's findings and recommendations to  
19                  the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the  
20                  Speaker of the House of Representatives.

21                  G. The Commission shall promulgate rules to implement the  
22                  provisions of this section.

23                  SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.  
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1 SECTION 3. 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.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
February 26, 2025 - DO PASS

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