

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 4, 2025

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR
5 SENATE BILL NO. 553

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7 By: Pugh and Thompson

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An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 445, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-104), which relates to the powers and duties of the State Board of Education; adding reason for which a certificate cannot be issued or can be revoked; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.1, which relates to a prohibition on certification of individuals convicted of certain offenses; adding reason for which a certificate cannot be issued; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 5-142, which relates to criminal history record checks for school employment; requiring certain letter to include certain information; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.22, which relates to reasons for dismissal of career teachers; adding reason for dismissal; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-194), which relates to professional development programs; directing certain program to include information about certain reporting requirements; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.163, as amended by Section 46, Chapter 59, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 1210.163), which relates to requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect; requiring school employees to annually sign certain attestation; updating statutory language; updating statutory references; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104, as
2 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 445, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.
3 2024, Section 3-104), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 3-104. A. The supervision of the public school system
5 of Oklahoma shall be vested in the State Board of Education and,
6 subject to limitations otherwise provided by law, the State Board of
7 Education shall:

8 1. Adopt policies and make rules for the operation of the
9 public school system of the state;

10 2. Appoint, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation of a
11 secretary, an attorney, and all other personnel necessary for the
12 proper performance of the functions of the State Board of Education.

13 The secretary shall not be a member of the Board;

14 3. Submit to the Governor a departmental budget based upon
15 major functions of the State Department of Education as prepared by
16 the Superintendent of Public Instruction and supported by detailed
17 data on needs and proposed operations as partially determined by the
18 budgetary needs of local school districts filed with the State Board
19 of Education for the ensuing fiscal year. Appropriations therefor
20 shall be made in lump-sum form for each major item in the budget as
21 follows:

22 a. State Aid to schools,

23 b. the supervision of all other functions of general and
24 special education including general control, free

1 textbooks, school lunch, Indian education, and all
2 other functions of the Board and an amount sufficient
3 to adequately staff and administer these services, and
4 c. the Board shall determine the details by which the
5 budget and the appropriations are administered.

6 Annually, the Board shall make preparations to
7 consolidate all of the functions of the Department in
8 such a way that the budget can be based on two items,
9 administration and aid to schools. A maximum amount
10 for administration shall be designated as a part of
11 the total appropriation;

12 4. On the first day of December preceding each regular session
13 of the Legislature, prepare and deliver electronically to the
14 Governor and the Legislature a report for the year ending June 30
15 immediately preceding the regular session of the Legislature. The
16 report shall contain:

- 17 a. detailed statistics and other information concerning
18 enrollment, attendance, expenditures including State
19 Aid, and other pertinent data for all public schools
20 in this state,
- 21 b. reports from each and every division within the State
22 Department of Education as submitted by the
23 Superintendent of Public Instruction and any other

1 division, department, institution, or other agency
2 under the supervision of the Board,
3 c. recommendations for the improvement of the public
4 school system of the state,
5 d. a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the
6 State Board of Education for the past year, and
7 e. a statement of plans and recommendations for the
8 management and improvement of public schools and such
9 other information relating to the educational
10 interests of the state as may be deemed necessary and
11 desirable;

12 5. Provide for the formulation and adoption of curricula,
13 courses of study, and other instructional aids necessary for the
14 adequate instruction of pupils in the public schools;

15 6. Have authority in matters pertaining to the licensure and
16 certification of persons for instructional, supervisory, and
17 administrative positions and services in the public schools of the
18 state subject to the provisions of Section 6-184 of this title, and
19 shall formulate rules governing the issuance and revocation of
20 certificates for superintendents of schools, principals,
21 supervisors, librarians, clerical employees, school nurses, school
22 bus drivers, visiting teachers, classroom teachers, and for other
23 personnel performing instructional, administrative, and supervisory
24 services, but not including members of boards of education and other

1 employees who do not work directly with pupils, and may charge and
2 collect reasonable fees for the issuance of such certificates:

- 3 a. the State Department of Education shall not issue a
4 certificate to and shall revoke the certificate of any
5 person who has been convicted, whether upon a verdict
6 or plea of guilty or upon a plea of nolo contendere,
7 or received a suspended sentence or any probationary
8 term for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime
9 provided for in Section 843.5 of Title 21 of the
10 Oklahoma Statutes if the offense involved sexual abuse
11 or sexual exploitation as those terms are defined in
12 Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes,
13 Section 741, 843.1, if the offense included sexual
14 abuse or sexual exploitation, 865 et seq., 885, 888,
15 891, 1021, 1021.2, 1021.3, 1040.13a, 1087, 1088,
16 1111.1, 1114, or 1123 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma
17 Statutes or who enters this state and who has been
18 convicted, received a suspended sentence, or received
19 a deferred judgment for a crime or attempted crime
20 which, if committed or attempted in this state, would
21 be a crime or an attempt to commit a crime provided
22 for in any of the laws, and
- 23 b. the State Department of Education shall not issue a
24 certificate to and shall revoke the certificate of any

1 person who has been convicted, whether upon a verdict
2 or plea of guilty or upon a plea of nolo contendere,
3 or received a suspended sentence or any probationary
4 term for knowingly and willfully failing to report
5 suspected abuse or neglect of a child in violation of
6 Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes,
7 and

8 c. all funds collected by the State Department of
9 Education for the issuance of certificates to
10 instructional, supervisory, and administrative
11 personnel in the public schools of the state shall be
12 deposited in the "Teachers' Certification Fund" in the
13 State Treasury and may be expended by the State Board
14 of Education to finance the activities of the State
15 Department of Education necessary to administer the
16 program, for consultative services, publication costs,
17 actual and necessary travel expenses as provided in
18 the State Travel Reimbursement Act incurred by persons
19 performing research work, and other expenses found
20 necessary by the State Board of Education for the
21 improvement of the preparation and certification of
22 teachers in this state. Provided, any unobligated
23 balance in the Teachers' Certification Fund in excess
24 of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) on June 30 of any

1 fiscal year shall be transferred to the General
2 Revenue Fund of this state. Until July 1, 1997, the
3 State Board of Education shall have authority for
4 approval of teacher education programs. The State
5 Board of Education shall also have authority for the
6 administration of teacher residency and professional
7 development, subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma
8 Teacher Preparation Act;

9 7. Promulgate rules governing the classification, inspection,
10 supervision, and accrediting of all public nursery, kindergarten,
11 elementary and secondary schools, and on-site educational services
12 provided by public school districts or state-accredited private
13 schools in partial hospitalization programs, day treatment programs,
14 and day hospital programs as defined in ~~this section~~, Section 3-
15 104.7 of this title, and Section ~~603.4~~ 175.20 of Title 10 of the
16 Oklahoma Statutes for persons between the ages of three (3) and
17 twenty-one (21) years of age in the state. However, no school shall
18 be denied accreditation solely on the basis of average daily
19 attendance.

20 Any school district which maintains an elementary school and
21 faces the necessity of relocating its school facilities because of
22 construction of a lake, either by state or federal authority, which
23 will inundate the school facilities, shall be entitled to receive
24 probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a

1 period of five (5) years after June 12, 1975, and any school
2 district, otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to receive
3 probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a
4 period of two (2) consecutive years to attain the minimum average
5 daily attendance. The Head Start and public nurseries or
6 kindergartens operated from community action agency funds shall not
7 be subjected to the accrediting rules of the State Board of
8 Education. Neither will the State Board of Education make rules
9 affecting the operation of the public nurseries and kindergartens
10 operated from federal funds secured through community action
11 agencies even though they may be operating in the public schools of
12 the state. However, any of the Head Start or public nurseries or
13 kindergartens operated under federal regulations may make
14 application for accrediting from the State Board of Education but
15 will be accredited only if application for the approval of the
16 programs is made. The status of no school district shall be changed
17 which will reduce it to a lower classification until due notice has
18 been given to the proper authorities thereof and an opportunity
19 given to correct the conditions which otherwise would be the cause
20 of such reduction.

21 Private and parochial schools may be accredited and classified
22 in like manner as public schools or, if an accrediting association
23 is approved by the State Board of Education, by procedures
24 established by the State Board of Education to accept accreditation

1 by such accrediting association, if application is made to the State
2 Board of Education for such accrediting;

3 8. Be the legal agent of this state to accept, in its
4 discretion, the provisions of any Act of Congress appropriating or
5 apportioning funds which are now, or may hereafter be, provided for
6 use in connection with any phase of the system of public education
7 in Oklahoma. It shall prescribe such rules as it finds necessary to
8 provide for the proper distribution of such funds in accordance with
9 the state and federal laws;

10 9. Be and is specifically hereby designated as the agency of
11 this state to cooperate and deal with any officer, board, or
12 authority of the United States Government under any law of the
13 United States which may require or recommend cooperation with any
14 state board having charge of the administration of public schools
15 unless otherwise provided by law;

16 10. Be and is hereby designated as the "~~State Educational~~
17 ~~Agency~~" state educational agency referred to in Public Law 396 of
18 the 79th Congress of the United States, as amended, which ~~law states~~
19 ~~that the act may be cited known~~ as the "National Richard B. Russell
20 National School Lunch Act" Act, and the State Board of Education is
21 hereby authorized and directed to accept the terms and provisions of
22 the act and to enter into such agreements, not in conflict with the
23 Constitution of Oklahoma or the Constitution and Statutes of the
24 United States, as may be necessary or appropriate to secure for this

1 state the benefits of the school lunch program established and
2 referred to in the act;

3 11. Have authority to secure and administer the benefits of the
4 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, Public Law 396 of the
5 79th Congress of the United States, as amended, in this state and is
6 hereby authorized to employ or appoint and fix the compensation of
7 such additional officers or employees and to incur such expenses as
8 may be necessary for the accomplishment of the above purpose, and
9 administer the distribution of any state funds appropriated by the
10 Legislature required as federal matching to reimburse on children's
11 meals;

12 12. Accept and provide for the administration of any land,
13 money, buildings, gifts, ~~donation~~ donations, or other things of
14 value which may be offered or bequeathed to the schools under the
15 supervision or control of the Board;

16 13. Have authority to require persons having administrative
17 control of all school districts in Oklahoma to make such regular and
18 special reports regarding the activities of the schools in the
19 districts as the Board may deem needful for the proper exercise of
20 its duties and functions. Such authority shall include the right of
21 the State Board of Education to withhold all state funds under its
22 control, to withhold official recognition including accrediting,
23 until such required reports have been filed and accepted in the

1 office of the Board and to revoke the certificates of persons
2 failing or refusing to make such reports;

3 14. Have general supervision of the school lunch program. The
4 State Board of Education may sponsor workshops for personnel and
5 participants in the school lunch program and may develop, print, and
6 distribute free of charge or sell any materials, books, and
7 bulletins to be used in the school lunch programs. There is hereby
8 created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Board, to be
9 designated the "School Lunch Workshop Revolving Fund". The fund
10 shall consist of all fees derived from or on behalf of any
11 participant in any such workshop sponsored by the State Board of
12 Education, or from the sale of any materials, books, and bulletins,
13 and funds shall be disbursed for expenses of such workshops and for
14 developing, printing, and distributing of the materials, books, and
15 bulletins relating to the school lunch program. The fund shall be
16 administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title 62 of the
17 Oklahoma Statutes;

18 15. Prescribe all forms for school district and county officers
19 to report to the State Board of Education where required. The State
20 Board of Education shall also prescribe a list of appropriation
21 accounts by which the funds of school districts shall be budgeted,
22 accounted for, and expended; and it shall be the duty of the State
23 Auditor and Inspector in prescribing all budgeting, accounting, and
24 reporting forms for school funds to conform to such lists;

1 16. Provide for the establishment of a uniform system of pupil
2 and personnel accounting, records, and reports;

3 17. Have authority to provide for the health and safety of
4 school children and school personnel while under the jurisdiction of
5 school authorities;

6 18. Provide for the supervision of the transportation of
7 pupils;

8 19. Have authority, upon request of the local school board, to
9 act in behalf of the public schools of the state in the purchase of
10 transportation equipment;

11 20. Have authority and is hereby required to perform all duties
12 necessary to the administration of the public school system in
13 Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School Code; and, in addition
14 thereto, those duties not specifically mentioned herein if not
15 delegated by law to any other agency or official;

16 21. Administer the State Public Common School Building
17 Equalization Fund established by Section 32 of Article X of the
18 Oklahoma Constitution. Any monies as may be appropriated or
19 designated by the Legislature, other than ad valorem taxes, any
20 other funds identified by the State Department of Education, which
21 may include, but not be limited to, grants-in-aid from the federal
22 government for building purposes, the proceeds of all property that
23 shall fall to the state by escheat, penalties for unlawful holding
24 of real estate by corporations, and capital gains on assets of the

1 permanent school funds, shall be deposited in the State Public
2 Common School Building Equalization Fund. The fund shall be used to
3 aid school districts and charter schools in acquiring buildings,
4 subject to the limitations fixed by Section 32 of Article X of the
5 Oklahoma Constitution. It is hereby declared that redbud school
6 grants disbursed from the State Public Common School Building
7 Equalization Fund shall be used for the same purposes as a building
8 fund, as provided for in Section 1-118 of this title. It is hereby
9 declared that the term "school districts" as used in Section 32 of
10 Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall mean school districts
11 and eligible charter schools as defined in subsection B of this
12 section. The State Board of Education shall disburse redbud school
13 grants annually from the State Public Common School Building
14 Equalization Fund to public schools and eligible charter schools
15 pursuant to subsection B of this section. The Board shall
16 promulgate rules for the implementation of disbursing redbud school
17 grants pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education shall
18 prescribe rules for making grants of aid from, and for otherwise
19 administering, the fund pursuant to the provisions of this
20 paragraph, and may employ and fix the duties and compensation of
21 technicians, aides, clerks, stenographers, attorneys, and other
22 personnel deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this
23 paragraph. The cost of administering the fund shall be paid from
24 monies appropriated to the State Board of Education for the

1 operation of the State Department of Education. From monies
2 apportioned to the fund, the State Department of Education may
3 reserve not more than one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) for
4 purposes of administering the fund;

5 22. Recognize that the Director of the Department of
6 Corrections shall be the administrative authority for the schools
7 which are maintained in the state reformatories and shall appoint
8 the principals and teachers in such schools. Provided, that rules
9 of the State Board of Education for the classification, inspection,
10 and accreditation of public schools shall be applicable to such
11 schools; and such schools shall comply with standards set by the
12 State Board of Education; and

13 23. Have authority to administer a revolving fund which is
14 hereby created in the State Treasury, to be designated the
15 "Statistical Services Revolving Fund". The fund shall consist of
16 all monies received from the various school districts of the state,
17 the United States Government, and other sources for the purpose of
18 furnishing or financing statistical services and for any other
19 purpose as designated by the Legislature. The State Board of
20 Education is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with school
21 districts, municipalities, the United States Government,
22 foundations, and other agencies or individuals for services,
23 programs, or research projects. The Statistical Services Revolving

1 Fund shall be administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title
2 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

3 B. 1. The redbud school grants shall be determined by the
4 State Department of Education as follows:

- 5 a. divide the county four-mill levy revenue by four to
6 determine the nonchargeable county four-mill revenue
7 for each school district,
- 8 b. determine the amount of new revenue generated by the
9 five-mill building fund levy as authorized by Section
10 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution for each
11 school district as reported in the Oklahoma Cost
12 Accounting System for the preceding fiscal year,
- 13 c. add the amounts calculated in subparagraphs a and b of
14 this paragraph to determine the nonchargeable millage
15 for each school district,
- 16 d. add the nonchargeable millage in each district
17 statewide as calculated in subparagraph c of this
18 paragraph and divide the total by the average daily
19 membership in public schools statewide based on the
20 preceding school year's average daily membership,
21 according to the provisions of Section 18-107 of this
22 title. This amount is the statewide nonchargeable
23 millage per student, known as the baseline local
24 funding per student,

1 e. all eligible charter schools shall be included in
2 these calculations as unique school districts,
3 separate from the school district that may sponsor the
4 eligible charter school, and the total number of
5 districts shall be used to determine the statewide
6 average baseline local funding per student,
7 f. for each school district or eligible charter school
8 which is below the baseline local funding per student,
9 the Department shall subtract the baseline local
10 funding per student from the average nonchargeable
11 millage per student of the school district or eligible
12 charter school to determine the nonchargeable millage
13 per student shortfall for each district, and
14 g. the nonchargeable millage per student shortfall for a
15 school district or eligible charter school shall be
16 multiplied by the average daily membership of the
17 preceding school year of the eligible school district
18 or eligible charter school. This amount shall be the
19 rebdub school grant amount for the school district or
20 eligible charter school.

21 2. For fiscal year 2022, monies for the redbud school grants

22 shall be expended from the funds apportioned pursuant to Section 426
23 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. For fiscal year 2023 and each
24 subsequent fiscal year, monies for the redbud school grants shall be

1 appropriated pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma
2 Statutes, not to exceed three-fourths (3/4) of the tax collected in
3 the preceding fiscal year pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the
4 Oklahoma Statutes as determined by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. For
5 fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year, if such
6 appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the redbud school
7 grants, then an additional apportionment of funds shall be made from
8 sales tax collections as provided by subsection D of Section 1353 of
9 Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If both funds are insufficient,
10 the Department shall promulgate rules to permit a decrease to the
11 baseline local funding per student to the highest amount allowed
12 with the funding available.

13 3. As used in this section, "eligible charter school" shall
14 mean a charter school which is sponsored pursuant to the provisions
15 of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Provided, however, eligible
16 charter school shall not include a statewide virtual charter school
17 sponsored by the Statewide Charter School Board but shall only
18 include those which provide in-person or blended instruction, as
19 provided by Section 1-111 of this title, to not less than two-thirds
20 (2/3) of students as the primary means of instructional service
21 delivery.

22 4. The Department shall develop a program to acknowledge the
23 redbud school grant recipients and shall include elected members of
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1 the House of Representatives and Senate who represent the school
2 districts and eligible charter schools.

3 5. The Department shall create a dedicated page on its website
4 listing annual redbud school grant recipients, amount awarded to
5 each recipient, and other pertinent information about the Redbud
6 School Funding Act.

7 6. The Department shall provide the chair of the House
8 Appropriations and Budget Committee and the chair of the Senate
9 Appropriations Committee no later than February 1 of each year with
10 an estimate of the upcoming year's redbud school grant allocation as
11 prescribed by this section.

12 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.1, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 3-104.1. No person shall receive a certificate for an
15 instructional, supervisory, or administrative position in an
16 accredited school of this state who has been convicted of a felony,
17 any crime involving moral turpitude, knowingly and willfully failing
18 to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child in violation of
19 Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, or a felony
20 violation of the narcotic laws of the United States or ~~the State of~~
21 ~~Oklahoma~~ this state, provided the conviction was entered within the
22 preceding ten-year period.

23 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 5-142, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 5-142. A. Except as otherwise provided for in
2 subsection F of this section, for purposes of employment, a board of
3 education may request in writing to the State Board of Education
4 that a national criminal history record check be conducted of any
5 employee of the school and shall request such information for any
6 person seeking employment with the school; provided, that a board of
7 education shall not be required to obtain a new criminal history
8 record check for an individual who has obtained certification from
9 the State Department of Education within the previous twelve (12)
10 months. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) shall
11 obtain fingerprints of the employee or prospective employee and
12 require that the person pay a search fee not to exceed Fifty Dollars
13 (\$50.00) or the cost of the search, whichever is the lesser amount.
14 The fee shall be deposited in the OSBI Revolving Fund. School
15 districts may reimburse employees for the cost of the search. The
16 State Board of Education shall contact the ~~Oklahoma State Bureau of~~
17 ~~Investigation OSBI~~ for any national criminal history record of the
18 person within fourteen (14) working days of receiving a written
19 request from the board of education.

20 B. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall provide the
21 national criminal history record check requested by the State Board
22 of Education within fourteen (14) working days from the receipt of
23 the request. The Bureau may contact the Federal Bureau of
24 Investigation to obtain the information requested.

1 C. The State Board of Education shall provide the information
2 received from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to the
3 board of education within fourteen (14) days from the receipt of the
4 information. The State Board of Education shall provide any follow-
5 up information received from the OSBI concerning a person for ~~which~~
6 whom a national criminal history record check was requested to the
7 employing board of education.

8 D. For the purpose of this section:

9 1. "Board of education" includes both public and private boards
10 of education within or outside this state;

11 2. "Employing agency" means a political subdivision or law
12 enforcement agency in this state;

13 3. "Law enforcement officer" means a peace or police officer
14 who is certified by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and
15 Training;

16 4. "National criminal history record check" means a national
17 criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title
18 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

19 5. "Prospective employee" means an individual who has received
20 an offer of temporary employment from a school district pending the
21 results of the national criminal history record check.

22 E. Each public board of education within this state shall
23 promulgate a statement regarding the felony record search policy for
24 that school district. The policy may permit temporary employment of

1 prospective employees for a maximum of sixty (60) days pending
2 receipt of results of national criminal history record check
3 requests. The temporary employment of the prospective employee
4 shall terminate after sixty (60) days unless the school district
5 receives the results of the national criminal history record check.
6 The sixty-day temporary employment period shall begin on the first
7 day the prospective employee reports for duty at the employing
8 school district. Prospective employees shall be notified of the
9 requirement, the fee, and the reimbursement policy when first
10 interviewed concerning employment. The school district's
11 reimbursement policy shall provide, at a minimum, that employees
12 shall be promptly reimbursed in full for the fee if employed by the
13 district at the time the national criminal history record check
14 request is made unless the person was employed pending receipt of
15 results ~~as set forth above~~.

16 F. 1. Any person who has been employed as a full-time teacher
17 by a school district in this state and applies for employment as a
18 full-time teacher in ~~another~~ a school district in this state may not
19 be required to have a national criminal history record check if the
20 teacher produces a copy of a national criminal history record check
21 completed within the preceding five (5) years and a letter from the
22 school district in which the teacher was employed stating the
23 teacher left in good standing and whether the teacher was the
24 subject of any allegation of inappropriate behavior with a student.

1 2. For any person applying for employment as a substitute
2 teacher, a national criminal history record check shall be required
3 for the school year; provided, however, a board of education may
4 choose whether to require a national criminal history record check
5 from a prospective substitute teacher who has been employed by the
6 school district in the last year. Any person applying for
7 employment as a substitute teacher in more than one school district
8 shall only be required to have one national criminal history record
9 check, and, upon the request of the substitute teacher, that record
10 check shall be sent to all other school districts in which the
11 substitute teacher is applying to teach.

12 3. Any person employed as a full-time teacher by a school
13 district in this state in the five (5) years immediately preceding
14 an application for employment as a substitute teacher may not be
15 required to have a national criminal history record check, if the
16 teacher produces a copy of a national criminal history record check
17 completed within the preceding five (5) years and a letter from the
18 school district in which the teacher was last employed stating the
19 teacher left in good standing and whether the teacher was the
20 subject of any allegation of inappropriate behavior with a student.

21 4. Any person employed as a substitute teacher by a school
22 district in this state for a minimum of five (5) years immediately
23 preceding an application for employment as a full-time teacher in a
24 school district in this state may not be required to have a national

1 criminal history record check if the teacher produces a copy of a
2 national criminal history record check completed within the
3 preceding five (5) years and a letter from the school district in
4 which the teacher was employed as a substitute teacher stating the
5 teacher left in good standing and whether the teacher was the
6 subject of any allegation of inappropriate behavior with a student.

7 5. Any person employed as a full-time teacher by a school
8 district in this state for ten (10) or more consecutive years
9 immediately preceding an application for employment as a substitute
10 teacher in the same school district may not be required to have a
11 national criminal history record check for as long as the person
12 remains employed for consecutive years by that school district as a
13 substitute teacher, if the teacher left full-time employment in good
14 standing. If the teacher applies for employment as a substitute
15 teacher in another school district, a national criminal history
16 record check shall be required.

17 G. 1. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, any
18 teacher employed by an Oklahoma school district prior to the
19 effective date of this act May 19, 2020, who does not have an
20 Oklahoma criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State
21 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history
22 record check, as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the
23 Oklahoma Statutes, on file with his or her employing district as
24 required by this section shall complete the criminal history record

1 checks upon the next renewal of his or her ~~Standard Teaching~~
2 ~~Certificate standard teaching certificate~~ as required by Section 6-
3 154.1 of this title or State Board of Education administrative rules
4 promulgated thereto.

5 2. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, any other
6 person employed by an Oklahoma school district prior to ~~the~~
7 ~~effective date of this act May 19, 2020,~~ who does not have an
8 Oklahoma criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State
9 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history
10 record check, as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the
11 Oklahoma Statutes, on file with his or her employing district as
12 required by this section shall have until July 1, 2022, to complete
13 the criminal history record checks.

14 3. Any teacher eligible to retire from the Teachers' Retirement
15 System of Oklahoma who does not have an Oklahoma criminal history
16 record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well
17 as a national criminal history record check, as defined in Section
18 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, on file with his or her
19 employing district as required by this section shall complete the
20 criminal history record checks by the earlier of the following
21 dates:

- 22 a. July 1, 2022, or
23 b. at the next renewal of his or her ~~Standard Teaching~~
24 ~~Certificate standard teaching certificate~~ as required

1 by Section 6-154.1 of this title or State Board of
2 Education administrative rules promulgated thereto.

3 H. The provisions of this section shall not apply to technology
4 center employees hired on a part-time or temporary basis for the
5 instruction of adult students only.

6 I. The provisions of this section shall not apply to law
7 enforcement officers who are employed by an employing agency at the
8 time of application for employment at a public school district.

9 J. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose
10 liability on school districts, except in negligence, for employing
11 prospective employees within the sixty-day temporary employment
12 window pending the results of the national criminal history record
13 check.

14 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.22, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 6-101.22. A. Subject to the provisions of the Teacher
17 Due Process Act of 1990, a career teacher may be dismissed or not
18 reemployed for:

- 19 1. Willful neglect of duty;
- 20 2. Repeated negligence in performance of duty;
- 21 3. Mental or physical abuse to a child;
- 22 4. Knowing and willful failure to report suspected child abuse
23 or neglect;

- 24 5. Incompetency;

- 1 5. 6. Instructional ineffectiveness;
- 2 6. 7. Unsatisfactory teaching performance;
- 3 7. 8. Commission of an act of moral turpitude; or
- 4 8. 9. Abandonment of contract.

5 B. Subject to the provisions of the Teacher Due Process Act of
6 1990, a probationary teacher may be dismissed or not reemployed for
7 cause.

8 C. During the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter:

9 1. A career teacher who has received a district evaluation
10 rating of "ineffective" as measured pursuant to the Oklahoma Teacher
11 and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) for two (2)
12 consecutive school years shall be dismissed or not reemployed on the
13 grounds of instructional ineffectiveness by the school district,
14 subject to the provisions of the Teacher Due Process Act of 1990.

15 However, the superintendent may recommend and the school district
16 board of education may approve continued employment of the teacher;
17 and

18 2. A career teacher who has received a district evaluation
19 rating of "needs improvement" or lower as measured pursuant to the
20 TLE for three (3) consecutive school years may be dismissed or not
21 reemployed on the grounds of instructional ineffectiveness by the
22 school district, subject to the provisions of the Teacher Due
23 Process Act of 1990.

24 D. During the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter:

1 1. A probationary teacher who has received a district
2 evaluation rating of "ineffective" as measured pursuant to the TLE
3 for two (2) consecutive school years may be dismissed or not
4 reemployed by the school district subject to the provisions of the
5 Teacher Due Process Act of 1990; and

6 2. A probationary teacher who has not attained career teacher
7 status within a four-year period may be dismissed or not reemployed
8 by the school district, subject to the provisions of the Teacher Due
9 Process Act of 1990.

10 E. A teacher shall be dismissed or not reemployed, unless a
11 presidential or gubernatorial pardon has been issued, if during the
12 term of employment the teacher is convicted in this state, the
13 United States, or another state of:

14 1. Any sex offense subject to the Sex Offenders Registration
15 Act in this state or subject to another state's or the federal sex
16 offender registration provisions; or

17 2. Knowingly and willfully failing to report suspected abuse or
18 neglect of a child in violation of Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of
19 the Oklahoma Statutes; or

20 3. Any felony offense.

21 F. A teacher may be dismissed, refused employment, or not
22 reemployed after a finding that such person has engaged in acts that
23 could form the basis of criminal charges sufficient to result in the

1 denial or revocation of a certificate for a reason set forth in
2 subparagraph a or b of paragraph 6 of Section 3-104 of this title.

3 G. As used in this section, "abandonment of contract" means the
4 failure of a teacher to report at the beginning of the contract term
5 or otherwise perform the duties of a contract of employment when the
6 teacher has accepted other employment or is performing work for
7 another employer that prevents the teacher from fulfilling the
8 obligations of the contract of employment.

9 H. A school district shall notify the State Board of Education
10 within ten (10) days of the dismissal or nonreemployment of a
11 probationary or career teacher for reasons outlined in subsection F
12 of this section.

13 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as
14 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp.
15 2024, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

16 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this
17 state shall establish professional development programs for the
18 certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs
19 shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a
20 professional development committee appointed by the board of
21 education for the district.

22 B. Each professional development committee shall include
23 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed
24 mental health providers, and parents, guardians, or custodians of

1 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher
2 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional
3 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The
4 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of
5 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers
6 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to
7 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

8 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional
9 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach
10 to analyze student data and determine district and school
11 professional development needs. The professional development
12 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of
13 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum
14 areas for the following goals:

15 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the
16 district and each school site;

17 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

18 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-
19 mandated tests and the ACT;

20 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

21 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

22 Each program may also include components on classroom management
23 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians,
24 or custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic

1 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116
2 of this title shall be required to complete at a frequency as
3 determined by the board of education. The State Board of Education
4 shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing
5 and implementing racial and ethnic education components into
6 professional development programs.

7 D. A program which includes the following information shall be
8 completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school
9 district, and then once every fifth academic year:

- 10 1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
- 11 2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
- 12 3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse including the reporting
13 requirements of Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma
14 Statutes and Section 1210.163 of this title and associated penalties
15 for failure to report; and
- 16 4. Available resources.

17 E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year,
18 training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident
19 teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three
20 shall be required to complete the autism training during the
21 resident year and at least one time every three (3) years
22 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals
23 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be
24 required to complete the autism training at least one time every

1 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum
2 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources
3 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to
4 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school
5 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or
6 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically
7 designed for school counselors.

8 Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional
9 development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited
10 to, professional development provided by the district, any state
11 agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

12 F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a
13 dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. Beginning in the 2023-
14 2024 school year, the program shall include information and training
15 in dysgraphia. At a minimum, the program shall include:

16 1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in
17 students;

18 2. Training in effective classroom instruction to meet the
19 needs of students with dyslexia; and

20 3. Available dyslexia resources for teachers, students and
21 parents.

22 G. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each
23 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district
24 board of education to meet the professional development requirements

1 established by the board, or established through the negotiation
2 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the
3 professional development requirements established by each board of
4 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum
5 number of the total number of points required to maintain
6 employment; provided, no more than a total of one hundred fifty
7 (150) hours of local, state, or federal professional development or
8 training shall be required for classroom teachers during any five-
9 year period. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of
10 education professional development requirements may be grounds for
11 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure
12 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments
13 affecting the teacher. Teachers shall maintain written
14 documentation of all their completed professional development.

15 H. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State
16 Department of Education on the district level professional
17 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results
18 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection
19 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and
20 offer a professional development program as provided for in
21 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to
22 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but
23 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not
24

1 to offer a program and all professional development activities
2 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

3 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall
4 develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection H
5 of this section. The Department shall also make such information
6 available on its website.

7 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.163, as
8 amended by Section 46, Chapter 59, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024,
9 Section 1210.163), is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 1210.163. A. Every school employee having reason to
11 believe that a student under the age of eighteen (18) years is a
12 victim of abuse or neglect shall report the matter immediately to
13 the Department of Human Services and local law enforcement. Reports
14 to the Department shall be made to the hotline provided for in
15 Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes. Any
16 allegation of abuse or neglect reported in any manner to a county
17 office shall immediately be referred to the hotline by the
18 Department.

19 B. Every school employee having reason to believe that a
20 student age eighteen (18) years or older is a victim of abuse or
21 neglect shall report the matter immediately to local law
22 enforcement.

23 C. In reports required by subsection A or B of this section,
24 local law enforcement shall keep confidential and redact any

1 information identifying the reporting school employee unless
2 otherwise ordered by the court. A school employee with knowledge of
3 a report required by subsection A or B of this section shall not
4 disclose information identifying the reporting school employee
5 unless otherwise ordered by the court or as part of an investigation
6 by local law enforcement or the Department.

7 D. Every school employee shall annually sign an attestation
8 acknowledging his or her responsibility to report suspected child
9 abuse or neglect pursuant to this section and Section 1-2-101 of
10 Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

11 E. For the purposes of this section, "child abuse and neglect"
12 shall include, but not be limited to:

13 1. Child abuse as defined in Section 843.5 of Title 21 of the
14 Oklahoma Statutes;

15 2. Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation as defined in Section 1-
16 1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes;

17 3. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor, as defined
18 described in Section 856 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

19 4. Trafficking in children, as defined in Section 866 of Title
20 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

21 5. Incest, as described in Section 885 of Title 21 of the
22 Oklahoma Statutes;

23 6. Forcible sodomy, as described in Section 888 of Title 21 of
24 the Oklahoma Statutes;

1 7. Maliciously, forcibly or fraudulently taking or enticing a
2 child away, as described in Section 891 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma
3 Statutes;

4 8. Soliciting or aiding a minor child to perform or showing,
5 exhibiting, loaning or distributing obscene material or child sexual
6 abuse material, as described in Section 1021 of Title 21 of the
7 Oklahoma Statutes;

8 9. Procuring or causing the participation of any minor child in
9 any child sexual abuse material or knowingly possessing, procuring
10 or manufacturing child sexual abuse material, as described in
11 Section 1021.2 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

12 10. Permitting or consenting to the participation of a minor
13 child in any child sexual abuse material, as described in Section
14 1021.3 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

15 11. Facilitating, encouraging, offering or soliciting sexual
16 conduct with a minor, as described in Section 1040.13a of Title 21
17 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

18 12. Offering or offering to secure a minor child for the
19 purposes of prostitution or any other lewd or indecent act, as
20 described in Section 1087 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

21 13. Causing, inducing, persuading or encouraging a minor child
22 to engage or continue to engage in prostitution, as described in
23 Section 1088 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

1 14. Rape or rape by instrumentation, as described in Sections
2 1111.1 and 1114 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and
3
4 15. Making any oral, written or electronically or computer-
generated lewd or indecent proposals to a minor child under the age
5 of sixteen (16) as described in Section 1123 of Title 21 of the
6 Oklahoma Statutes.

7 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
March 4, 2025 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS