

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 245

5 By: Deever of the Senate

6 and

7 Hasenbeck of the House

11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

12 [State Department of Education - High Dosage
13 Tutoring Program - eligibility - promulgation of
14 rules - revolving fund - codification - effective
15 date -

16 emergency]

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19 ~~BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:~~

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-180 of Title 70, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. The State Department of Education shall establish and
2 maintain the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring Program for grades
3 kindergarten through eight.

4 B. For the purposes of this section:

5 1. "Cohort" means a student or group of students of no more
6 than five who receive subject-specific high dosage tutoring in
7 mathematics or English language arts (ELA) and are at least one-half
8 grade level behind in mathematics or ELA prior to participating in
9 the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring Program; and

10 2. "High dosage tutoring" means in-person, subject-specific
11 tutoring conducted by an individual employed by or contracted with a
12 school district participating in the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring
13 Program after school hours for a minimum of three one-hour sessions
14 per week per cohort. Tutoring shall be conducted during a minimum
15 of ten (10) weeks in the fall semester and a minimum of twelve (12)
16 weeks in the spring semester.

17 C. 1. Participating school districts shall assess kindergarten
18 through third grade students participating in high dosage ELA
19 tutoring using the screening instrument required by Section
20 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes to track ELA academic
21 growth. Fourth- through eighth-grade students participating in high
22 dosage ELA tutoring shall be assessed using an assessment chosen by
23 the district to determine academic readiness for the next grade
24 level.

1 2. Participating school districts shall assess students
2 participating in high dosage mathematics tutoring using an
3 assessment chosen by the district to determine academic readiness
4 for the next grade level.

5 3. Results of screening instruments and assessments
6 administered pursuant to this subsection shall be electronically
7 reported to the State Department of Education three times a year at
8 intervals determined by the Department.

9 D. The State Department of Education shall give priority for
10 participation in the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring Program to school
11 districts federally designated for additional targeted support and
12 improvement or comprehensive support and improvement under the
13 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as reauthorized by
14 P.L. No. 114-95, also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act.

15 Participation in the program shall be approved on a first-come,
16 first-served basis without any limitation other than the amount of
17 funds available for the program and the number of school districts
18 that apply.

19 E. High dosage tutors employed by or contracted with public
20 school districts participating in the Oklahoma High Dosage Tutoring
21 Program shall be awarded bonuses in the following amounts:

22 1. One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$1,600.00) for each cohort
23 educated by a high dosage tutor per semester; and

1 2. One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each academic grade
2 level increase in ELA or mathematics that each student within a
3 cohort experiences within one (1) academic year.

4 F. 1. If the students in a high dosage tutor's cohort do not
5 improve by at least half a grade level in their tutored subject
6 within the first year of the program, the tutor shall be placed on a
7 conditional one-year term of participation.

8 2. If the students in a high dosage tutor's cohort fail to
9 achieve half a grade level of growth during the one-year conditional
10 term of participation, the tutor shall lose eligibility to
11 participate in the program. A tutor who loses eligibility pursuant
12 to this paragraph may be reconsidered as a high dosage tutor after
13 two (2) years.

14 3. If the students in a high dosage tutor's cohort achieve half
15 a grade level of growth during the one-year conditional term of
16 participation, the tutor's conditional status shall be lifted.

17 G. High dosage tutors shall be provided the necessary
18 information for each student's subject-specific academic performance
19 level, as determined by the student's current teacher of the tutored
20 subject.

21 H. 1. School districts participating in the Oklahoma High
22 Dosage Tutoring Program shall obtain written consent from a
23 student's parent or legal guardian prior to allowing the student to
24 participate in high dosage tutoring.

1 2. If a student participating in high dosage tutoring fails to
2 attend a tutoring session, the tutor shall notify the student's
3 school district, and the school district shall notify the student's
4 parent or legal guardian.

5 3. If the parent or legal guardian of a student participating
6 in high dosage tutoring no longer wishes for the student to
7 participate, a student fails to attend nine (9) high dosage tutoring
8 sessions during a semester, or a student's behavior during tutoring
9 sessions requires disciplinary action, the student may be removed
10 from the cohort. The performance of a student subject to the
11 provisions of this paragraph shall not count against the high dosage
12 tutor.

13 I. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
14 implement the provisions of this section.

15 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-180.1 of Title 70, unless
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
19 for the State Department of Education to be designated the "High
20 Dosage Tutoring Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing
21 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of
22 all monies received by the State Department of Education from gifts,
23 grants, donations, bequests, federal funds provided for the purpose
24 of funding high dosage tutoring, or state appropriations provided

1 for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Section 1 of this
2 act. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
3 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State
4 Department of Education for the purpose provided for in this
5 section. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants
6 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
7 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
8 Services for approval and payment.

9 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-190, as
10 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 122, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.
11 2024, Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

12 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school
13 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in
14 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified to teach by
15 the State Board of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher
16 Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for by Section 6-101
17 of this title and by other law.

18 B. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
19 who:

20 1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program
21 required by the Commission for Educational Quality and
22 Accountability;

23 2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher
24 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

1 3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the
2 Board;

3 4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency
4 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

5 5. Has successfully completed the competency examination
6 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

7 6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a
8 current Oklahoma criminal history record 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 Oklahoma
11 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the
12 Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective
13 until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history
14 record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible
15 for the cost of the criminal history records.

16 C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
17 who:

18 1. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets the requirements
19 set forth in subsection G of this section;

20 2. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional
21 Teaching Standards;

22 3. Holds an out-of-country certificate and meets the
23 requirements set forth in subsection F of this section; or

1 4. Has successfully completed a competency examination used in
2 the majority of other states or comparable customized exam and meets
3 the requirements set forth in subsection H of this section.

4 D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial
5 Oklahoma certification shall have on file with the Board a current
6 Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
7 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
8 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
9 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue
10 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of
11 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person
12 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the
13 criminal history records.

14 E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to
15 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the
16 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional
17 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher
18 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

19 F. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
20 who holds a valid out-of-country certificate and meets any
21 requirements established by the Board. The certificate to teach
22 shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most closely
23 aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-
24 of-country certificate.

1 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
2 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations
3 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the
4 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-country
5 certificate.

6 3. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
7 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
8 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
9 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
10 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
11 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may
12 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt
13 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.
14 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the
15 cost of the criminal history record checks.

16 4. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing a process by
17 which out-of-country certificates will be reviewed and evaluated for
18 purposes of awarding a certificate to teach pursuant to this
19 subsection.

20 G. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
21 who holds a valid out-of-state certificate. The certificate to
22 teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most
23 closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on
24 the out-of-state certificate.

1 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
2 subsection shall not be required to take any competency examinations
3 in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the
4 subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state
5 certificate.

6 3. A person who meets the requirements of this subsection shall
7 have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history
8 record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well
9 as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section
10 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the
11 Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may issue a
12 temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the
13 national fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The
14 person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost
15 of the criminal history record checks.

16 H. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
17 who has successfully completed a competency exam used in a majority
18 of the other states. The certificate to teach shall only be for
19 those subject areas and grade levels that correspond with a
20 certification area used in Oklahoma.

21 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
22 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
23 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
24 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as

1 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
2 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may
3 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt
4 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.
5 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the
6 cost of the criminal history record checks.

7 I. 1. The Board may establish new levels of teacher
8 certificates: advanced, lead, and master. Each level shall have a
9 ~~salary increase requirement~~ stipend paid with state dollars from the
10 lottery funds as provided in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma
11 Statutes. The advanced certificate shall include a ~~salary increase~~
12 stipend of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), the lead certificate
13 shall include a ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Five Thousand Dollars
14 (\$5,000.00), and the master certificate shall include a ~~salary~~
15 increase stipend of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

16 2. A teacher who works in a school with an enrollment of forty
17 percent (40%) or more of students who are economically disadvantaged
18 as defined in Section 18-109.5 of this title or a school district
19 with an enrollment of fewer than one thousand students shall be paid
20 a one-time award in addition to the ~~salary increases~~ stipends
21 provided in paragraph 1 of this subsection:

- 22 a. One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for an
23 advanced certificate,

- b. Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for a lead certificate, and
- c. Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for a master certificate.

3. School districts may identify and designate the highest

quality teachers for advanced, lead, and master certificates.

Participating districts shall submit designation plans to the State Department of Education for evaluation and approval. Districts shall have local control and flexibility in determining how to evaluate teachers and assign designations, but, at a minimum, the designation system shall include a teacher observation, out-of-classroom time, and a student performance component.

- a. Teacher observation shall be based on the district's selected Oklahoma Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System (TLE) evaluation tool or an alternate method of evaluation; provided, the method is evidenced-based. Alternate methods of evaluation shall not replace the requirements of Section 6-101.16 of this title.

- b. Each school district that elects to participate in assigning advanced, lead, and master teacher certificates shall include an out-of-classroom component for its assigned teachers to allow for professional growth opportunities while staying in the

1 classroom. How out-of-classroom time is allotted and
2 managed shall be determined by the school district and
3 submitted as part of its designation plan to the State
4 Department of Education for review and approval.

5 c. Student performance measures may be determined by the
6 district and may include, but shall not be limited to,
7 pre- and post-tests, summative or formative, and
8 portfolios. The school district application shall
9 show evidence of validity and reliability of the
10 measures.

11 d. No more than ten percent (10%) of each school
12 district's teachers may be designated as an advanced,
13 lead, or master teacher in any given school year.
14 Districts which receive Title I funds within the top
15 quartile of individual student allotment amounts may
16 designate an additional ten percent (10%) of teachers
17 employed at school sites which receive the Title I
18 funding as advanced, lead, and master.

19 Districts may use additional factors in determining which
20 teachers are eligible to receive a designation, such as student
21 surveys, teacher leadership responsibilities, teacher mentorship
22 responsibilities, family surveys, demonstration of district core
23 values, teacher peer surveys, and contributions to the broader
24 school community. ~~No more than ten percent (10%) of each school~~

1 ~~district's teachers may be designated as an advanced, lead, or~~
2 ~~master teacher in any given school year.~~

3 4. If a school district chooses to participate in this program,
4 the state shall provide the ~~increased salary~~ stipend amounts
5 indicated for advanced, lead, and master certificates in paragraph 1
6 of this subsection ~~above the base pay~~.

7 5. School districts that designate teachers for advanced, lead,
8 and master certificates do not have to participate in annual TLE
9 evaluations for the designated teachers.

10 6. School districts may designate teachers for advanced, lead,
11 or master certificates two times per year, once prior to the
12 beginning of the school year, and once prior to the beginning of the
13 second semester. Teachers statewide who receive these designations
14 shall be placed in professional development cohorts and provided
15 additional training opportunities from the State Department of
16 Education.

17 7. After initial approval by the State Department of Education,
18 the Department shall review and validate each participating school
19 district's teacher evaluation system biennially.

20 8. The State Department of Education shall annually report the
21 school districts participating in the program, the number of
22 advanced, lead, and master certificates awarded, and the total
23 amount in state funding that was distributed to teachers from the

1 Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund created in Section 6-190.2 of
2 this title.

3 9. The selection criteria; designation of advanced, lead, or
4 master teachers; and any associated ~~salary increases~~ stipend amounts
5 shall not be subject to collective bargaining.

6 10. Stipends provided pursuant to this subsection shall not be
7 included in the calculation of the teacher's salary for purposes of
8 meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for
9 purposes of calculating Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma
10 contributions or benefits.

11 J. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
12 a renewal schedule and associated fees for advanced, lead, and
13 master teaching certificates. The rules shall allow a teacher that
14 no longer meets the requirements of an advanced, lead, or master
15 teaching certificate to make application for the standard teaching
16 certificate.

17 K. The terms of the contracts issued to those holding advanced,
18 lead, and master teaching certificates shall include the following:

19 1. Advanced: an additional five (5) days to be used to
20 strengthen instructional leadership. A person with an advanced
21 teaching certificate shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend
22 of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) or the district's daily rate
23 of pay, whichever is higher, in addition to the salary for which the
24 teacher qualifies pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This

1 increase stipend shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery
2 funds as provided in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma
3 Statutes and shall be paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly
4 to teachers through school districts;

5 2. Lead: an additional ten (10) days to be used to strengthen
6 instructional leadership. A person with a lead teaching certificate
7 shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Five Thousand
8 Dollars (\$5,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever
9 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies
10 pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This increase stipend
11 shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery funds as provided
12 in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes and shall be
13 paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly to teachers through
14 school districts; and

15 3. Master: an additional fifteen (15) days to be used to
16 strengthen leadership. A person with a master teaching certificate
17 shall receive an annual ~~salary increase~~ stipend of Ten Thousand
18 Dollars (\$10,000.00) or the district's daily rate of pay, whichever
19 is higher, in addition to the salary for which the teacher qualifies
20 pursuant to Section 18-114.15 of this title. This increase stipend
21 shall be funded by state dollars from the lottery funds as provided
22 in Section 713 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes and shall be
23 paid ~~as regular annual compensation~~ directly to teachers through
24 school districts.

1 If a person with an advanced, lead, or master teaching
2 certificate changes school districts during the life of the
3 certificate, the terms of the contracts required in this subsection
4 shall be subject to approval by the new employing school district.

5 L. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the Department shall
6 make the teaching certificates provided for in this section
7 available for any person who has received a recommendation from his
8 or her school district and who meets the eligibility criteria as
9 outlined in each school district's teacher evaluation system
10 provided for in subsection I of this section.

11 M. The funding necessary for the administration of this section
12 shall be provided from the Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund
13 created in Section 6-190.2 of this title. If funding for the
14 administration of the teaching certificates listed in subsection I
15 is not available, the Department shall not be required to fulfill
16 the requirements listed in subsections I, K, and L of this section.

17 N. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
18 implement the provisions of Section 6-180 et seq. of this title.

19 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 359, O.S.L.
20 2022, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 122, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S.
21 Supp. 2024, Section 6-190.2), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 6-190.2. A. There is hereby created in the State
23 Treasury a revolving fund for the State Department of Education to
24 be designated the "Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund". The

1 revolving fund shall be a continuing fund, without legislative
2 appropriation, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall be
3 under the control and management of the State Department of
4 Education. Expenditures from the Teacher Empowerment Revolving Fund
5 shall be budgeted and expended as provided for in subsection B of
6 this section.

7 B. The State Department of Education shall utilize the funds
8 for the program outlined in Section 6-190 of this title. Funding
9 shall be allocated to school districts to provide the ~~increased~~
10 salary stipend amounts indicated for advanced, lead, and master
11 certificates as provided for in subsection I of Section 6-190 of
12 this title on a first-come, first-served basis until the cash is
13 exhausted for the school year.

14 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

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20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
04/17/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended.
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