

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**
2 April 15, 2025
3 **AS AMENDED**

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
4 BILL NO. 1955

By: Waldron, Rosecrants, and
Deck of the House

5 and

6 Reinhardt of the Senate

7
8
9 An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
10 Section 6-204.2, which relates to the Education
11 Leadership Oklahoma program; updating references;
12 clarifying award coverage; increasing maximum amount
13 of award; changing conditions for repayment;
14 authorizing reimbursement under certain conditions;
15 expanding certain mentor program; and providing an
16 effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-204.2, is

19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 6-204.2. A. The ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
21 Preparation Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
22 and the State Board of Education are authorized to establish the
23 Education Leadership Oklahoma program.

24 B. The purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program
25 are to:

1 1. Provide teachers throughout the state information about
2 National Board certification and the Education Leadership Oklahoma
3 program services;

4 2. Provide technical assistance and National-Board-certified
5 mentors to all teachers seeking National Board certification upon
6 request;

7 3. Reward teachers who are seeking National Board certification
8 by awarding them a portion of the ~~application processing charge and~~
9 ~~assessment fee and scholarship~~ National Board certification cost as
10 provided in subsection D of this section; and

11 4. Provide recognition to National-Board-certified teachers.

12 C. To fulfill the objectives of the Education Leadership
13 Oklahoma Act, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

14 1. Inform teachers of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program
15 and services it provides to teachers seeking National Board
16 certification, emphasizing recruiting efforts toward teachers at
17 high-poverty schools, schools identified as in need of improvement
18 and in ~~counties~~ districts with the lowest percentage of teachers who
19 have achieved National Board certification; and

20 2. Ensure that all teachers seeking National Board
21 certification receive adequate information regarding the level of
22 commitment required to acquire National Board certification.

23 D. The Commission shall select not more than one hundred
24 applicants to participate in the program each fiscal year for whom

1 the Commission shall pay one-half (1/2) of the application
2 processing charge and assessment fee for National Board
3 certification. The total amount paid by the Commission shall not
4 exceed One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$1,300.00). In addition
5 the Commission shall also provide to the selected applicants a
6 scholarship in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to cover
7 other expenses associated with obtaining National Board
8 certification up to One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00)
9 of the National Board certification cost.

10 E. The Commission shall promulgate rules establishing a process
11 for accepting applications for the Education Leadership Oklahoma
12 program and for providing to applicants selected for the program up-
13 front payment of the application processing charge and assessment
14 fee and scholarship National Board certification cost. If a
15 selected applicant who receives the up-front payment does not
16 complete National Board certification within three (3) years fulfill
17 all submission requirements for National Board certification as
18 established by the certification vendor within the maximum allowable
19 time frame, the applicant will be required to repay the full amount
20 of the component fees paid on his or her behalf, the applicant shall
21 repay the Commission the full amount paid by the Commission pursuant
22 to subsection D of this section. All Subject to the availability of
23 funding, all selected applicants who do not receive an up-front
24 payment and successfully complete National Board certification shall

1 be reimbursed by the Commission for the ~~application processing~~
2 ~~charge and assessment fee~~ National Board certification cost. The
3 total amount of reimbursement paid by the Commission shall not
4 exceed ~~One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$1,300.00)~~ One Thousand
5 Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00).

6 F. ~~It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma~~
7 ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation contract with Southeastern~~
8 ~~Oklahoma State University to establish Education Leadership Oklahoma~~
9 ~~program training in higher education teacher preparation programs in~~
10 ~~the state to assist teachers in meeting the requirements to obtain~~
11 ~~National Board certification.~~

12 G. All Subject to the availability of funding, all teachers
13 seeking initial National Board certification either through the
14 Education Leadership Oklahoma Scholarship program or paying their
15 own way shall be eligible to participate in Education Leadership
16 ~~Oklahoma program training~~ mentoring for up to three (3) years to
17 assist them in meeting the requirements of the National Board
18 certification process, free of charge.

19 H. G. Subject to district board of education policy or
20 collective bargaining agreement, additional professional leave days
21 may be granted to teachers seeking National Board certification for
22 National Board certification portfolio development. During the two
23 (2) days of the additional professional days granted to teachers for
24 National Board certification portfolio development, a substitute

1 teacher shall be provided by the school district at no cost to the
2 teacher.

3 ¶. H. 1. The State Board of Education shall provide to
4 teachers who attained National Board certification prior to June 30,
5 2013, a bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)
6 annually over a ten-year period, to be paid no later than January 31
7 each year. The Board shall provide a bonus to any teacher who
8 attains National Board certification after June 30, 2013, if the
9 teacher was selected for the Education Leadership Oklahoma program
10 before June 30, 2013, or the teacher has submitted an application
11 for National Board certification to the National Board for
12 Professional Teaching Standards before June 30, 2013.

13 2. The teachers eligible to receive the annual bonus as
14 provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall receive the
15 annual bonus for the ten-year duration of their National Board
16 certification and so long as they are teaching in the classroom
17 full-time in an Oklahoma public school. No school or school
18 district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this
19 section.

20 3. The bonus shall not be included in the calculation of the
21 teacher's salary for purposes of meeting the district or statutory
22 minimum salary schedule or for purposes of compensating Oklahoma
23 Teachers' Retirement System contributions or benefits.

1 4. Teachers eligible to receive the annual bonus as provided
2 for in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall not be eligible to
3 receive the additional salary increment for National Board
4 certification as set forth in the minimum salary schedule in Section
5 ~~3~~ 18-114.15 of this ~~act~~ title.

6 5. Teachers who attain National Board certification after June
7 30, 2013, shall be eligible to receive the additional salary
8 increments for National Board certification as set forth in the
9 minimum salary schedule in Section ~~3~~ 18-114.15 of this ~~act~~ title.

10 6. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules for a
11 process by which a National-Board-certified teacher will verify
12 that:

- 13 a. the National Board certification has not lapsed,
- 14 b. the teacher is still a full-time teacher, and
- 15 c. for teachers eligible for the bonus, the teacher has
16 not exceeded the limit of annual bonus payments as
17 provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

18 J. I. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma
19 State Regents for Higher Education incorporate the National Board
20 certification portfolio development into all programs in education
21 leading to a master's level degree.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.
23 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
24 April 15, 2025 - DO PASS AS AMENDED