

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 SENATE BILL 574

By: Allen

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 6-101.21, which relates to standards of  
9 performance and conduct for teachers; requiring each  
10 school district board of education to establish a  
11 code of ethics and professional responsibility for  
12 teachers; providing for contents of code; requiring  
13 certain written notification; requiring certain  
14 professional development to be provided; prohibiting  
15 a school district from displaying certain material on  
16 certain property; providing for a fine for violation;  
17 updating statutory reference; providing an effective  
18 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

20 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-101.21, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 6-101.21. A. The State Board of Education shall  
23 promulgate standards of performance and conduct for teachers. A  
24 copy of such standards, any amendments to such standards ~~and~~, any  
25 standards adopted by the board of education of the school district  
26 and the code of ethics and professional responsibility established  
27 by the board of education pursuant to subsection C of this section

1 shall be provided by the board of education of each school district  
2 to each teacher on or before April 10 of each year.

3 B. The State Board of Education shall include the statutory  
4 grounds for dismissal and nonreemployment of career teachers within  
5 this standards document.

6 C. 1. Each school district board of education shall establish  
7 a code of ethics and professional responsibility for teachers that  
8 provides that no teacher, regardless of continuing contract status,  
9 is permitted during class time or while otherwise operating within  
10 the scope of employment as a teacher to do the following:

11 a. endorse, support or oppose any candidate or nominee  
12 for public office or any local, state or federal  
13 official when interacting with students, regardless of  
14 whether such official is elected or appointed,

15 b. endorse, support or oppose any local, state or federal  
16 legislation or regulation when interacting with  
17 students, regardless of whether such legislation or  
18 regulation is pending, proposed or enacted,

19 c. introduce into any class any controversial subject  
20 matter that is not germane to the topic of the course  
21 being taught,

22 d. endorse, support or engage in any activities that  
23 hamper or impede the lawful access of military  
24 recruiters to school property,

- 1           e. endorse, support or engage in any activities that  
2           hamper or impede the actions of a local, state or  
3           federal law enforcement agency,
- 4           f. advocate for any issue that is part of a political  
5           party platform at the national, state or local level  
6           when interacting with students, or
- 7           g. wear or display any political message or candidate  
8           support during hours in which the teacher is in  
9           official work status or while wearing identification  
10          that identifies the person as a teacher, including at  
11          school district extracurricular events or school  
12          district fund-raising events.

13           2. Each code of ethics and professional responsibility for  
14          teachers that is established pursuant to this subsection shall  
15          contain provisions for enforcement of and penalties for violations  
16          of the prohibitions therein, including termination of employment.

17           3. Each board of education shall provide:

- 18           a. written notification of the code of ethics and  
19           professional responsibility for teachers that is  
20           established pursuant to this subsection to enrolled  
21           students and parents or legal guardians of enrolled  
22           students, and

1           b. at least three (3) hours of annual professional  
2                           development regarding teachers' responsibilities under  
3                           the code of ethics and professional responsibility.

4           4. Standards which may be adopted by the board of education of  
5 a school district shall not conflict with state or federal law or  
6 standards promulgated by the State Board of Education.

7           D. A school district shall be prohibited from displaying  
8 campaign material on school district property, including at school  
9 district extracurricular events or school district fund-raising  
10 events. A violation of this subsection shall be punishable by a One  
11 Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) fine payable to the State Department of  
12 Education.

13           E. In determining whether or not the professional performance  
14 of a teacher is adequate, the standards adopted by the State Board  
15 of Education shall be considered. Consideration may be given to any  
16 written standards of performance which have been adopted by any  
17 other education-oriented organization or agency. Professional  
18 performance or conduct of a teacher which is in compliance with  
19 standards adopted by the State Board of Education or the local board  
20 of education pursuant to Section ~~71 of this act~~ 6-101.10 of this  
21 title shall not be considered in support of any dismissal or  
22 nonreemployment action against the teacher.

23           SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019.

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  
6           57-1-195           EB           1/17/2019 8:45:50 AM

7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25