

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 246

By: Deevers

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; allowing public school
8 districts and charter schools to designate certified
9 classroom teachers with certain designations for
10 certain time period; establishing minimum criteria
11 for designations; directing the State Board of
12 Education to establish certain standards; providing
13 duties of the Board and the State Department of
14 Education; allowing the Board to adopt certain fees
15 and promulgate rules; directing the Board to provide
16 Distinguished Educator Allotments for classroom
17 teachers granted certain designations; providing for
18 calculation of allotments; directing certain point
19 values to be linked to certain student academic
20 growth; providing for assignment of certain point
21 values; directing a public school district or charter
22 school to be entitled to certain increased allotments
23 for certain reimbursement; directing the State
24 Department of Education to make certain information
available on its website; directing public school
districts and charter schools that receive certain
funds to annually certify use of such funds;
providing for use of certain portion of allotments;
providing for allotments for certain public school
districts and charter schools; creating the
Distinguished Educator Allotments Revolving Fund;
specifying sources of fund; providing for
expenditures; providing purpose of fund; making an
appropriation; providing for codification; providing
an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 18-126 of Title 70, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. In accordance with the provisions of subsection B of this
5 section, a public school district or charter school may designate a
6 certified classroom teacher with a master, exemplary, or recognized
7 designation for a five-year period. Public school districts and
8 charter schools shall use the following criteria, at a minimum, to
9 designate a certified classroom teacher:

10 1. A recognized designation shall be awarded when generally a
11 minimum of fifty-five percent (55%) of the teacher's students are
12 meeting or exceeding expected growth targets;

13 2. An exemplary designation shall be awarded when generally a
14 minimum of sixty percent (60%) of the teacher's students are meeting
15 or exceeding expected growth targets; and

16 3. A master designation shall be awarded when generally a
17 minimum of seventy percent (70%) of the teacher's students are
18 meeting or exceeding expected growth targets.

19 B. The State Board of Education shall establish performance and
20 validity standards for local optional teacher designation systems.
21 The performance standards shall:

22 1. Provide a mathematical possibility that all teachers
23 eligible for a designation may earn the designation;

1 2. Provide a process to weight designations to incentivize
2 individual student academic growth in English language arts,
3 mathematics, and writing; and

4 3. Require a quantitative metric for teacher designation
5 assessment and evaluation.

6 C. The State Board of Education shall:

7 1. Ensure that local optional teacher designation systems meet
8 the requirements of subsection B of this section; and

9 2. Collaborate with the Office of Educational Quality and
10 Accountability to monitor the quality and fairness of local optional
11 teacher designation systems in accordance with the provisions of
12 this section.

13 D. The State Department of Education shall:

14 1. Develop and provide technical assistance for public school
15 districts and charter schools that request assistance in
16 implementing a local optional teacher designation system;

17 2. Periodically conduct evaluations of the effectiveness of the
18 local optional teacher designation systems implemented pursuant to
19 this section and the Distinguished Educator Allotments implemented
20 pursuant to Section 2 of this act and electronically report the
21 results of the evaluations to the Governor, the President Pro
22 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives. A public school district or charter school that
24 has implemented a local optional teacher designation system or

1 received Distinguished Educator Allotment funds pursuant to Section
2 2 of this act shall participate in the evaluations; and

3 3. Collect information necessary to implement the provisions of
4 this section.

5 E. The State Board of Education may adopt fees to implement the
6 provisions of this section and may promulgate rules to implement the
7 provisions of this section.

8 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 18-126.1 of Title 70, unless
10 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 A. The State Board of Education shall provide Distinguished
12 Educator Allotments for each classroom teacher granted a master,
13 exemplary, or recognized teacher designation pursuant to the
14 provisions of Section 1 of this act who is employed by a public
15 school district or charter school. The employing public school
16 district or charter school shall receive an amount equal to the
17 following base amounts increased by the pupil category factor
18 provided for in subsection B of this section:

19 1. Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00), or an increased amount
20 not to exceed Thirty-two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000.00) as determined
21 pursuant to subsection B of this section, for each teacher with a
22 master designation;

23 2. Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00), or an increased amount not
24 to exceed Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) as determined

1 pursuant to subsection B of this section, for each teacher with an
2 exemplary designation; and

3 3. Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), or an increased amount
4 not to exceed Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) as determined
5 pursuant to subsection B of this section, for each teacher with a
6 recognized designation.

7 B. The pupil category factor shall be determined by multiplying
8 the following applicable amounts by the point value assigned to each
9 student at a public school district or charter school campus
10 pursuant to subsection D of this section:

11 1. Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each teacher with a
12 master designation;

13 2. One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for each
14 teacher with an exemplary designation; and

15 3. One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each teacher with a
16 recognized designation.

17 C. Point values determined by the public school district or
18 charter school for each student shall be linked to student academic
19 growth in reading or mathematics recorded by statewide student
20 assessments administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of Title 70 of
21 the Oklahoma Statutes through calculation of individual student
22 performance levels and corresponding cut scores determined by the
23 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability pursuant to
24 Section 1210.541 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Below basic

1 low, below basic high, basic low, basic high, proficient low,
2 proficient high, advanced low, and advanced high shall have the same
3 meaning as the the academic growth indicator adopted by the State
4 Board of Education for the accountability system adopted pursuant to
5 Section 1210.545 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

6 D. Point values for each student at a public school district or
7 charter school shall be assigned as follows:

8 1. Zero (0) points for a student who experienced no change in
9 performance level from the previous year to the current year;

10 2. One-quarter (0.25) point for performance level increases of:

11 a. below basic low in the previous year to below basic
12 high in the current year,

13 b. basic low in the previous year to basic high in the
14 current year,

15 c. proficient low in the previous year to proficient high
16 in the current year, and

17 d. advanced low in the previous year to advanced high in
18 the current year;

19 3. One-half (0.5) point for a performance level increase from
20 proficient low or proficient high in the previous year to advanced
21 low or advanced high in the current year;

22 4. Two (2.0) points for a performance level increase from below
23 basic low or below basic high in the previous year to basic low or
24 basic high in the current year;

1 5. Three (3.0) points for a performance level increase from
2 basic low or basic high in the previous year to proficient low or
3 proficient high in the current year;

4 6. Four (4.0) points for a performance level increase from
5 basic low or basic high in the previous year to advanced low or
6 advanced high in the current year;

7 7. Five points (5.0) for a performance level increase from
8 below basic low or below basic high in the previous year to
9 proficient low or proficient high in the current year;

10 8. Six points (6.0) for a performance level increase from below
11 basic low or below basic high in the previous year to advanced low
12 or advanced high in the current year; and

13 9. For any student whose performance level decreased or moved
14 inversely to the changes described in paragraphs 2 through 8 of this
15 subsection, the assigned point value shall be the negative
16 equivalent of the corresponding positive point value.

17 Performance levels for the current year shall mean mathematics or
18 reading performance levels calculated based on a student's
19 performance on statewide student assessments completed the year the
20 student was taught by a teacher with a designation.

21 E. A public school district or charter school shall be entitled
22 to receive increased Distinguished Educator Allotments pursuant to
23 this section in the amount necessary for reimbursement for any fees
24 paid pursuant to Section 1 of this act.

1 F. The State Department of Education shall annually make
2 available to the public on its website a list of public school
3 districts and charter schools with the projected Distinguished
4 Educator Allotments per teacher designation at each public school
5 district or charter school campus.

6 G. A public school district or charter school shall annually
7 certify that funds received pursuant to this section were used in
8 the following manner:

9 1. At least ninety percent (90%) of each allotment received
10 pursuant to subsection B of this section was used for increased
11 compensation of a teacher with a master, exemplary, or recognized
12 designation; and

13 2. Any other funds received pursuant to this section were used
14 for costs associated with implementing Section 1 of this act
15 including efforts to support teachers in obtaining master,
16 exemplary, or recognized designations.

17 H. The portion of the Distinguished Educator Allotments used
18 for increased compensation of the teacher shall:

19 1. Be awarded for as long as the teacher maintains his or her
20 designation according to the local optional teacher designation
21 system adopted pursuant to Section 1 of this act;

22 2. Not be a part of a continuing contract of a teacher;

23 3. Not be considered as salary and/or fringe benefits pursuant
24 to Section 18-114.15 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

1 4. Be excluded from the compensation of a teacher for the
2 purposes of calculating retirement pursuant to the Teachers'
3 Retirement System of Oklahoma; and

4 5. Not be subject to taxes levied by the Federal Insurance
5 Contributions Act (FICA), to the extent such an exemption is
6 provided by federal law.

7 I. A public school district or charter school responsible for
8 instruction of students during their first year participating in
9 statewide student assessments administered pursuant to Section
10 1210.508 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall receive
11 Distinguished Educator Allotments per teacher. Point values for
12 each student at a public school district or charter school subject
13 to the provisions of this subsection shall be assigned as follows:

14 1. Zero (0.0) points for a student who performs at or below the
15 state average in academic performance in mathematics or reading;

16 2. Two (2.0) points for a student who performs above the state
17 average in academic performance in mathematics or reading;

18 3. Negative one (-1.0) point for a student who performs below
19 basic low or below basic high in academic performance in mathematics
20 or reading; and

21 4. Negative one-half (-0.5) point for a students who performs
22 basic low in academic performance in mathematics or reading.

1 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 18-126.2 of Title 70, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
5 for the State Board of Education to be designated the "Distinguished
6 Educator Allotments Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing
7 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of
8 all monies received by the State Board of Education from state
9 appropriations provided for the purpose of implementing the
10 provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this act. All monies accruing to
11 the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted
12 and expended by the State Board of Education for the purpose
13 provided for in this section. Expenditures from the fund shall be
14 made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims
15 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
16 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

17 SECTION 4. There is hereby appropriated to the Distinguished
18 Educator Allotments Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 3 of
19 this act from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the General
20 Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June
21 30, 2023, the sum of Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) or so
22 much thereof as may be necessary to implement the provisions of
23 Sections 1 and 2 of this act.

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

1 SECTION 6. 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.

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