

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 212

By: Seifried

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teacher preparation; directing the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability to establish and maintain TeachForwardOK for certain time period; directing the Commission to issue certain request for proposals within certain time period; providing process for program application; directing the Commission to prescribe application form; directing the Commission to establish criteria for applicant approval; directing the Commission to award grants to approved applicants, subject to availability of funding; providing for use of grants; directing certain provider to evaluate certain minimum factors; requiring evaluation reports to be electronically submitted to approved applicants and the Commission; directing teacher education program to electronically submit a report response to the Commission within certain time period; directing the Commission to select certain program to receive certain funding for certain purpose, subject to availability of funding; directing the Commission to electronically submit certain report by certain date; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 6-186.1 of Title 70, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
5 shall establish and maintain a two-year pilot program to be known as
6 TeachForwardOK.

7 B. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act,
8 the Commission shall issue a request for proposals to select
9 technical assistance providers to evaluate teacher education
10 programs in institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma
11 State System of Higher Education that are accredited by the
12 Commission pursuant to Section 6-186 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
13 Statutes.

14 C. To participate in TeachForwardOK, a teacher education
15 program shall submit an application to the Commission in the manner
16 and on a form prescribed by the Commission. The Commission shall
17 establish criteria to approve applicants. Subject to the
18 availability of funds, the Commission shall award grants to approved
19 applicant teacher education programs. Grants shall be used to
20 contract with a technical assistance provider selected by the
21 Commission pursuant to subsection B of this section. The provider
22 shall evaluate, at a minimum, the following:

- 23 1. Teacher candidate recruitment and completion;

1 2. Whether the teacher education program prepares teacher
2 candidates effectively;

3 3. Whether the teacher education program meets workforce needs
4 in this state; and

5 4. Innovative ways to recruit nontraditional teacher
6 candidates.

7 D. Evaluation reports prepared by a technical assistance
8 provider shall be electronically submitted to the approved applicant
9 teacher education program and the Commission. Within sixty (60)
10 days of receiving the report, the teacher education program shall
11 electronically submit a report response to the Commission detailing
12 how the teacher education program plans to address the evaluation
13 report's findings.

14 E. Subject to the availability of funding, upon completion of
15 the two-year pilot program, the Commission shall select one approved
16 applicant teacher education program to receive Five Hundred Thousand
17 Dollars (\$500,000.00) to address the evaluation report's findings.

18 F. By December 31, 2027, the Commission shall electronically
19 submit a report of TeachForwardOK's findings and recommendations to
20 the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

22 G. The Commission shall promulgate rules to implement the
23 provisions of this section.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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.

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6 60-1-520

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