An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1581

By: Coody, Kern, Shumate and Tibbs of the House

and

Jolley of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 4, Chapter 431, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508F), which relates to training for teachers of students with reading difficulties; requiring certain institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to incorporate into certain teaching programs the study of certain reading instruction elements; requiring certain teacher candidates to pass an assessment of reading instruction skills; specifying skills to be measured in the assessment; requiring institutions to report results of the assessment on an annual report; directing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to include the data in certain annual report; stating legislative intent; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 431, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508F), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508F A. The State Board of Education shall ensure that the reading competencies for elementary teachers are included in the competencies for special education teachers.

B. The State Board of Education and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents

for Higher Education shall ensure that all teachers of early childhood education, elementary education, and special education are provided quality training in intervention, instruction, and remediation strategies in order to meet the needs of students in kindergarten through third grade who are determined to be at risk of reading difficulties.

C. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, all institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that offer elementary, early childhood education, or special education programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall incorporate into those programs the requirement that teacher candidates study the five elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

D. Effective July 1, 2010, teacher candidates enrolled in an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in an elementary, early childhood education, or special education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive assessment to measure their teaching skills in the area of reading instruction. The assessment shall be developed and administered by the institutions that offer elementary, early childhood education, or special education programs that lead to certification. The assessment shall measure the knowledge and understanding of the teacher candidate in the teaching of the five elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The results of the assessment shall be reported annually by the institution to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation as a part of the required annual report for the institution. The Commission shall include the data in the annual report to the Oklahoma Legislature as required pursuant to Section 6-186 of this title. It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that teachers graduating from institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education have the knowledge and skills to effectively teach reading to all children.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of March, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 15th day of April, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Governor this 20th

day of April, 2009,

at 3:07 o'clock P M.

By:

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma the 24th day of

April, 2009, at 6:02 o'clock P M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this

25th day of April, 2009,

at 11:10 o'clock A. M.

By: