

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE BILL 2043

By: Young

4
5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
7 Section 6-129.1, which relates to the Minority
8 Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee; creating the
9 Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee;
10 providing for effect of vacancies on a quorum;
11 requiring initial appointments to made by certain
12 date; providing for terms of appointments; providing
13 for filling vacancies; updating statutory entity;
14 deleting obsolete language; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
15 Section 6-130, which relates to the Minority Teacher
16 Recruitment Center; requiring establishment of the
17 Center by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
18 Education; expanding duties of the Center; directing
19 the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center to award
20 "Grow Your Own" grants to consortia; specifying grant
21 requirements for consortia; directing Grow Your Own
22 teacher preparation programs to implement forgivable
23 loans for certain candidate costs; stating conditions
24 for forgiveness; requiring grants to provide certain
support for cohort candidates; prohibiting the
supplanting of certain expenditures; allowing program
budgets to cover support expenses, costs and
services; allowing institutions of higher education
to expend grant funds of certain class costs;
allowing community organizations to receive grant
funds for recruitment and counseling costs; allowing
school districts to receive grant funds to support
work experiences; allowing expenditure for salary of
a site-based cohort coordinator; allowing
expenditures for developmental or remedial classes;
allowing for planning grants; providing definitions;
providing an effective date; and declaring an
emergency.

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

2 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-129.1, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 Section 6-129.1 A. There is hereby ~~re-created until July 1,~~
5 ~~2010, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law~~ created, a Minority
6 Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee which shall have oversight
7 over implementation of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and
8 shall advise the operation of ~~such~~ the Center. The Advisory
9 Committee shall be composed of nineteen (19) members. The presence
10 of ten Advisory Committee members or their designees shall
11 constitute a quorum, but no vacancy shall impair the right of the
12 remaining members to exercise all of the powers of the Advisory
13 Committee. ~~Appointments~~ Initial appointments shall be made by ~~July~~
14 ~~±~~ September 1, 2015, with members serving a term of two (2) years
15 unless no longer eligible. The terms of subsequently appointed
16 members shall commence on September 1 and be for two (2) years. A
17 vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled by the original
18 appointing authority. The Advisory Committee members shall be
19 appointed as follows:

- 20 1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:
- 21 a. two members from the Oklahoma House of
22 Representatives,
- 23 b. two members from an institution of higher education in
24 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. One

1 appointee shall be from a comprehensive university.

2 One appointee shall be from a two-year college,

3 c. one member who is a public school teacher who is a
4 minority,

5 d. one member who is a superintendent or designee of a
6 public school district, and

7 e. two members representing a community with a high
8 minority population. One appointee shall be African-
9 American. One appointee shall be Hispanic;

10 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint:

11 a. two members from the Oklahoma State Senate,

12 b. two members from an institution of higher education in
13 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education with a
14 teacher preparation program. One appointee shall be
15 from a regional university,

16 c. one member who is a public school teacher who is a
17 minority,

18 d. one member who is a principal of a public high school,
19 and

20 e. two members representing a community with a high
21 minority population. One appointee shall be American
22 Indian. One appointee shall be Asian-American;

23 3. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee
24 shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee;

1 4. The Chancellor of Higher Education or a designee shall serve
2 as a member of the Advisory Committee; and

3 5. The Executive Director of the ~~Oklahoma~~ Commission for
4 ~~Teacher Preparation~~ Educational Quality and Accountability or a
5 designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee.

6 B. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be reimbursed for
7 attendance at the Advisory Committee meetings by the appointing
8 agency pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act or Section 456
9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Members of the Advisory
10 Committee shall designate from among the members a chairperson and
11 vice-chairperson. Staff assistance shall be provided by the
12 Minority Teacher Recruitment Center.

13 C. ~~Persons who are members on the effective date of this act~~
14 ~~shall retain their membership until their terms are completed.~~

15 ~~D.~~ The Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee shall:

16 1. Make recommendations on the annual operating budget of the
17 Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and verify that the funds
18 allocated to the Center through the Oklahoma State Regents for
19 Higher Education are utilized exclusively by the Center by function;

20 2. Advise the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education of
21 unmet needs within the state in the implementation of the Center's
22 activities;

23 3. Annually comment publicly on the progress of the Center;
24

1 4. Assist the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in
2 developing and reporting information about the Center when
3 necessary;

4 5. Meet as often as necessary to conduct business; and

5 6. Keep official minutes of the Committee meetings which shall
6 be made available to the public upon request.

7 ~~E.~~ D. As used in this section and Section 6-130 of this title,
8 "minority" means a person who is a lawful resident of the State of
9 Oklahoma and who is:

10 1. African-American, a person having origins in any of the
11 black racial groups of Africa;

12 2. Hispanic, a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central
13 or South American descent;

14 3. Asian-American, a person having origins in any of the
15 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian
16 subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands; or

17 4. American Indian and Alaskan Native, a person having origins
18 in any of the original peoples of North America.

19 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-130, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 6-130. A. Recognizing the future significance and
22 challenge of educating a growing and highly diverse student
23 population in Oklahoma common schools and acknowledging the
24 underrepresentation of minority teachers among the state's

1 professional education staff, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
2 Education shall ~~have authority to~~ establish the Minority Teacher
3 Recruitment Center and staff and administer its work. Upon
4 recommendations and advice from the Minority Teacher Recruitment
5 Advisory Committee ~~re-created~~ created pursuant to Section ~~±~~ 6-129.1
6 of this ~~act~~ title, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
7 are hereby directed to work with the State Board of Education, the
8 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Educational Quality and
9 Accountability and other agencies, boards and education
10 organizations in the interests of recruiting, retaining and placing
11 minority teachers in the public schools of the State of Oklahoma.
12 Such efforts shall include, but not be limited to:

13 1. The provision and coordination of support services to
14 teacher training programs in state institutions of higher education,
15 including the funding of grants for campus-based recruitment,
16 retention and placement programs that assist minority students who
17 intend to become teachers;

18 2. The establishment and development of recruiting programs for
19 potential minority teachers, including pre-collegiate curricular
20 courses that emphasize school success and the opportunity to
21 investigate teaching as a career choice, future teacher clubs and
22 collegiate programs designed to recruit students making transitions
23 from other careers and other areas of study;

24

1 3. The hosting of conferences dealing with issues that ~~effect~~
2 affect minority teacher recruitment, retention, and placement;

3 4. The creation of activities in the public and private schools
4 of Oklahoma which enhance the image of the teaching profession; ~~and~~

5 5. The creation and development of placement services providing
6 assistance to both minority educators and school districts seeking
7 to hire qualified minority teachers;

8 6. Requiring each public teacher education program in the state
9 to prepare a plan with specific goals, strategies and deadlines for
10 the recruitment, admission, retention and graduation of minority
11 teachers;

12 7. The provision and coordination of mentoring and induction
13 programs in school districts for minority teachers, particularly for
14 school districts in which at least thirty five percent (35%) of the
15 students are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches and
16 for teaching positions such as special education, bilingual
17 education, mathematics or science that have been identified as a
18 critical need by a local school district board of education. The
19 programs shall include culturally relevant teaching strategies for
20 new teachers;

21 8. The establishment and administration of a loan forgiveness
22 program from loans that covered any portion of tuition, books and
23 fees of minority teachers who complete not less than five (5) years
24 of service in public schools that serve a substantial percentage of

1 low income students, with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of
2 service. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
3 establish standards for the approval of loan forgiveness requests
4 and provide the necessary funds to forgive eligible loans;

5 9. The establishment and development of financial and other
6 additional supports to assist public school paraprofessionals in the
7 completion of the career development program as established in
8 Section 6-127A of this title; and

9 10. The establishment and administration of a "Grow Your Own"
10 grant competition to fund consortia that will carry out Grow Your
11 Own teacher preparation programs to recruit and prepare parent and
12 community leaders and paraprofessionals to become effective
13 teachers.

14 B. 1. As provided for in paragraph 10 of subsection A of this
15 section, the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center shall award "Grow
16 Your Own" grants to qualified consortia that meet the following
17 requirements:

18 a. a consortium shall be composed of at least a four-year
19 institution of higher education with a teacher
20 preparation program, at least one school district or
21 group of schools and one or more community
22 organizations. The consortium membership may also
23 include a two-year institution of higher education or
24 a school employee organization,

- 1 b. a consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set of
2 eligible schools that will participate in the program.
3 The consortium shall articulate the steps that it will
4 carry out in preparing teachers for its participating
5 schools and in preparing teachers for one or more
6 hard-to-staff teaching positions in those schools,
- 7 c. a candidate in a program shall hold a high school
8 diploma or its equivalent and meet either the
9 definition of parent or community leader or public
10 school paraprofessional and does not hold a bachelor's
11 degree,
- 12 d. the consortium shall employ effective procedures for
13 teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare
14 highly effective teachers. Professional preparation
15 shall include ongoing direct experience in target
16 schools and evaluation of this experience,
- 17 e. the consortium shall offer the program to cohorts of
18 candidates on a schedule that enables candidates to
19 work full-time while participating in the program and
20 allows paraprofessionals to continue in their current
21 positions. In any fiscal year in which an
22 appropriation is made, the consortium shall guarantee
23 that support will be available to an admitted cohort
24

1 for the education of the cohort for that fiscal year,
2 and

3 f. the institutions of higher education participating in
4 the consortium shall document and agree to expend the
5 same amount of funds in implementing the program that
6 the institutions spend per student on similar
7 educational programs. Grants received by the
8 consortium shall supplement and not supplant these
9 amounts.

10 2. Every Grow Your Own teacher preparation program shall
11 implement a program of forgivable loans to cover any portion of
12 tuition, books and fees of candidates participating in the program
13 in excess of the grants-in-aid available to the candidate. All
14 students admitted to a cohort shall be eligible for a forgivable
15 student loan. Loans shall be fully forgiven if the student
16 completes five (5) years of service in hard-to-staff public schools
17 or hard-to-staff teaching positions, with partial forgiveness for
18 shorter periods of service.

19 3. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Center shall award grants
20 in such a way as to provide the required support for a cohort of
21 candidates for any fiscal year in which an appropriation is made for
22 the grants. Program budgets shall show expenditures and needed
23 funds for the entire period that candidates are expected to be
24 enrolled.

1 4. No grant funds may be used to supplant the average per-
2 capita expenditures by the institution of higher education for
3 candidates.

4 5. Where necessary, program budgets shall include the costs of
5 child care and other indirect expenses, including but not limited to
6 transportation, tutoring, technology and technology support
7 necessary to permit candidates to maintain their class schedules.
8 Grant funds may be used by any member of a consortium to offset
9 support costs, and the service may be provided by the community
10 organization or organizations, by any other member of the consortium
11 or by independent contractors.

12 6. The institution of higher education may expend grant funds
13 to cover the additional costs of offering classes in community
14 settings and for tutoring services.

15 7. The community organization or organizations may receive a
16 portion of the grant funds for the expenses of recruitment,
17 community orientation, counseling of potential candidates, for
18 providing space in the community and for working with school
19 personnel to facilitate individual work experiences and support of
20 candidates.

21 8. The school district or school employee organization or both
22 may receive a portion of the grant funds for expenses of supporting
23 the work experiences of candidates and providing mentors for
24 graduates.

1 9. One or more members of the consortium may expend grant funds
2 to cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

3 10. Grant funds may also be expended to pay directly for
4 required developmental or remedial classes for candidates beginning
5 a program.

6 11. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Center may, if it chooses,
7 award a small number of planning grants during any fiscal year to
8 potential consortia.

9 C. As used in this section:

10 1. "Cohort" means a group of teacher education candidates who
11 are enrolled in and share experiences in the same program and are
12 linked by their desire to become teachers in hard-to-staff public
13 schools and by their need for the services and supports offered by
14 the program;

15 2. "Community organization" means a nonprofit organization that
16 has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop and organize parents
17 and community leaders into a constituency that will hold the school
18 and the school district accountable for achieving high academic
19 standards. In addition to organizations with a geographic focus,
20 community organizations include general parent organizations,
21 organizations of special education or bilingual education parents
22 and school employee organizations;

23 3. "Developmental classes" means classes in basic skill areas,
24 including but not limited to mathematics and language arts that are

1 prerequisite to, but not counted towards, degree requirements of a
2 teacher preparation program;

3 4. "Eligible school" means a public elementary, middle or
4 secondary school in this state that serves a substantial percentage
5 of low-income students and that is either hard-to-staff or has hard-
6 to-staff teaching positions;

7 5. "Hard-to-staff school" means a public elementary, middle or
8 secondary school in this state in which at least thirty five percent
9 (35%) of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price
10 lunches;

11 6. "Hard-to-staff teaching position" means a teaching category,
12 including but not limited to special education, bilingual education,
13 mathematics or science, that has been identified as a critical need
14 by the board of education of a school district;

15 7. "Parent and community leader" means an individual who has or
16 had a child enrolled in a school or schools that meet the definition
17 of a hard-to-staff school under paragraph 5 of this subsection and
18 who has a history of active involvement in the school or who has a
19 history of working to improve schools, including membership in a
20 community organization; and

21 8. "Program" means a Grow Your Own teacher preparation program
22 established by a consortium under the provisions of this section.

23 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

24

1 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health and 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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