

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



Improving our future by degrees

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Teacher Warranty

Since 1992, the Oklahoma State Regents have implemented multiple teacher education initiatives designed to improve teacher education. In May 2000, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the twelve presidents of teacher education institutions took another step in improving teacher education by offering a warranty that all teacher education graduates recommended for licensure will meet the employing school's expectations in 15 competency areas. Students entering college in fall 2000 and completing an approved teacher education program in Oklahoma would be the beneficiary of this warranty. The state university that awards the degree and submits the recommendation for teacher licensure will stand by the quality of its graduates and maintain its obligation to nurture the continuing development of teachers.

The approved state university that awarded the degree and submitted the recommendation for teacher licensure will assure that the candidate:

- 1. The teacher understand the central concepts and methods of inquiry of the subject matter disciplines he or she teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for students.**
- 2. The teacher understands how students learn and develop and can provide learning opportunities that support their intellectual, social, and physical development.**
- 3. The teacher understands that students vary in their approaches to learning and creates instructional opportunities that are adaptable to individual differences of learners.**
- 4. The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage students' development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills and effective use of technology.**
- 5. The teacher uses best practices related to motivation and behavior to create learning environments that encourage positive social interaction, self-motivation and active engagement in learning, thus, providing opportunities for success.**
- 6. The teacher develops a knowledge of and uses a variety of effective communication techniques to foster active inquiry collaboration and supportive interaction in the classroom.**
- 7. The teacher plans instruction based upon curriculum goals, knowledge of the teaching/learning process, subject matter, students' abilities and differences, the community; and adapts instruction based upon assessment and reflection.**
- 8. The teacher understands and uses a variety of assessment strategies to evaluate and modify the teaching/learning process ensuring the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the learner.**
- 9. The teacher evaluates the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community), modifies those actions when needed, and actively seeks opportunities for continued professional growth.**

10. The teacher fosters positive interaction with school colleagues, parent/families, students' learning and well-being.
11. The teacher shall have an understanding of the importance of assisting students with career awareness and application of career concepts to the academic curriculum.
12. The teacher understands the process of continuous lifelong learning, the concept of making learning enjoyable, and the need for a willingness to change when the change leads to greater student learning and development.
13. The teacher understands the legal aspects of teaching including the rights of students and parents/families, as well as, the legal rights and responsibilities of the teacher.
14. The teacher understands the Oklahoma core curriculum and is able to develop instructional strategies/plans based on Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS).
15. The teacher understands the state teacher evaluation process, "Oklahoma Criteria for Effective Teaching Performance," and how to incorporate these criteria in designing instructional strategies.

HONORING THE WARRANTY

If during the Residency Year, the resident year teacher is judged to be performing unsatisfactorily in the classroom on the basis of appraisals by the members of the Resident Year Committee, the employing school system may enact the Oklahoma Teacher Education Warranty.

Did the teacher enroll in college for the first time in the fall semester 2000 or later?

Did the teacher complete an approved teacher preparation program in Oklahoma?

Is the teacher in his/her Resident Year of teaching?

Is the unsatisfactory performance related to areas identified in the Oklahoma pre-service teacher preparation competencies?

Is the teacher assigned to his/her degree field and at appropriate grade level?

If the answers to the above questions are all "yes," the following steps should be taken:

The higher education member of the residency year committee will contact the Dean/Director of Teacher Education at the appropriate institution of higher education.

The Dean/Director and/or his/her designate shall visit the school site as soon as possible to meet with the Resident Year committee to ascertain that the situation is warrantable.

The Resident Year Teacher will receive additional training at no expense to the teacher or the school. The additional training will consist of an individualized plan agreed upon among the Resident Year Teacher, the school district, and the university. The plan will include learning outcomes desired. Implementation may begin during the summer. Assistance may be provided through distance technology or through arrangements mutually agreed upon by the university, the teacher and the school district.

Participation of the members of the entry-year committee in the design of this plan in no way obligates the school system to employ the Resident Year teacher during his/her second year.

The appropriate institution of higher education will continue to provide support and assistance to the beginning teacher during the second year in a manner which is mutually agreeable to the beginning teacher, the Resident Year Committee, the employing school system and the Dean/Director and/or his/her designate.