

**TITLE 210. OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 20. STAFF**

**SUBCHAPTER 9. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS: TEACHER EDUCATION AND  
CERTIFICATION**

**PART 9. TEACHER CERTIFICATION**

**210:20-9-105. Non-traditional certification in special education**

**(a) Provisional certificates in special education for qualified applicants.** Notwithstanding any other rule in this Part, upon payment of the required processing fee for a provisional certificate set forth in 210:20-9-9, the Oklahoma State Department of Education shall issue a one-year provisional certificate to teach in the area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any qualified applicant. An applicant will be considered "qualified" if the applicant has met the following criteria:

(1) Applicant provides a written recommendation for a certificate by a school district board of education or an accredited institution of higher education;

(2) Applicant has satisfactorily completed a one-hundred fifty (150) clock hour special education program which has been approved annually by the State Department of Education Office of Special Education in accordance with the criteria approved by the State Board of Education; and

(3) A national criminal history record check of the applicant has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of 70 O.S. § 5-142, the cost of which shall be paid by the Applicant.

**(b) Renewal of a provisional certificate in special education.** The one-year provisional certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of (a) of this Section may be renewed for up to two (2) additional periods of one-year each upon submission of proof from an accredited institution of higher education that the individual has successfully completed at least six (6) credit hours of prescribed coursework during the previous year in either:

(1) A special education certification program in mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities or;

(2) A master's degree program in special education.

**(c) Standard certificates in special education for provisional certificate holders.**

Notwithstanding any other rule in this Part, upon payment of the required processing fee for a standard certificate set forth in 210:20-9-9, the Oklahoma State Department of Education shall issue a standard certificate to teach in the area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any individual who has:

(1) Been issued one or more provisional certificates in accordance with (a) and (b) of this Section;

(2) Successfully completed the subject area competency examination as required by 70 O.S. § 6-187; and

(3) Successfully completed within three (3) years of issuance of the original provisional certificate the prescribed coursework and any required examinations of either:

(A) An alternative route to certification program in either mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities from an accredited institution of higher education; or

(B) The prescribed coursework and any required examinations of a master's degree program in special education from an accredited institution of higher education.

**(d) Standard certificates in special education for individuals with a master's degree in special education.** Notwithstanding any other rule in this Part, upon payment of the required processing fee for a standard certificate set forth in 210:20-9-9, the Oklahoma State Department of Education shall issue a standard certificate to teach in the area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any individual who has met all of the following requirements, without requiring applicant to first obtain a provisional certificate:

(1) Applicant has successfully completed the prescribed coursework and any required examinations of a master's degree program in special education from an accredited institution of higher education;

(2) Applicant has successfully completed the subject area competency area examination as required by 70 O.S. § 6-187; and

(3) A national criminal history record check of the applicant has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of 70 O.S. § 5-142, the cost of which shall be paid by the Applicant.

**(e) Highly qualified status.** Teachers who hold a provisional certificate issued or renewed in accordance with (a) or (b) of this Section who do not provide direct instruction in a "core academic area" as defined by 20 U.S.C. § 7801(11) are not required to meet the requirements for "highly qualified" status. Teachers who obtain a provisional certificate who are unable to meet the requirements for obtaining "highly qualified" status may still provide indirect services in core academic areas. Examples of these indirect services include co-teaching, serving in a resource room, or provision of supplemental instruction. Teachers who hold a provisional certificate issued or renewed in accordance with (a) or (b) of this Section who do provide direct instruction in a "core academic area" must obtain highly qualified status as follows:

**(1) Core academic areas - secondary education.** Teachers who hold a provisional certificate issued or renewed in accordance with (a) or (b) of this Section who provide direct instruction in a "core academic area" as defined by 20 U.S.C. § 7801(11) cannot be considered a special education teacher who is "highly qualified" in secondary education unless they have met all of the following requirements:

(A) Hold a bachelor's degree; and

(B) Successfully completed the appropriate competency examinations in each core academic area taught, or, if the teacher is not new to the profession (i.e., was a certified teacher prior to December 3, 2004), demonstrated competency in each core academic area taught through a High, Objective, Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE).

**(2) Core academic areas – early childhood and elementary education.** Teachers who hold a provisional certificate issued or renewed in accordance with (a) or (b) of this Section who provide direct instruction in a "core academic area" as defined by 20 U.S.C. § 7801(11) cannot be considered a special education teacher who is "highly qualified" in early childhood or elementary education unless they have met all of the following requirements:

(A) Obtained a standard certificate;

(B) Hold a bachelor's degree;

(C) Successfully completed an accredited teacher preparation program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation in accordance with the provisions of OAC 712:10-5; and

(D) Successfully completed the appropriate competency examinations in early childhood or elementary education in accordance with the requirements set forth in 70 O.S. § 6-187, or, if the teacher is not new to the profession (i.e., was a certified teacher prior to

December 3, 2004), demonstrated competency in early childhood or elementary education through a High, Objective, Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE).  
(3) **Core academic areas – alternate achievement standards.** Notwithstanding (1) and (2) of this subsection, teachers who hold a provisional certificate issued or renewed in accordance with (a) or (b) of this Section who provide direct instruction in a "core academic area" as defined by 20 U.S.C. § 7801(11) cannot be considered a special education teacher who is "highly qualified" to teach alternate achievement standards unless they have met all of the following requirements:

(A) Obtained a standard certificate;

(B) Hold a bachelor's degree;

(C) Successfully completed an accredited teacher preparation program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation in accordance with the provisions of OAC 712:10-5; and

(D) Successfully completed the appropriate competency examinations in early childhood or elementary education in accordance with the requirements set forth in 70 O.S. § 6-187, or, if the teacher is not new to the profession (i.e., was a certified teacher prior to December 3, 2004), demonstrated competency in early childhood or elementary education through a High, Objective, Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE).

(f) **Additional certification in early childhood or elementary education.** Teachers who obtain a standard certificate under (c) of this Section may add a certification in early childhood or elementary education upon successful completion of:

(1) An accredited teacher preparation program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation in accordance with the provisions of OAC 712:10-5; and

(2) The appropriate competency examinations in early childhood or elementary education in accordance with the requirements set forth in 70 O.S. § 6-187.