

1 and reports, shall provide a uniform accounting system; and shall
2 incur such expenses and make such expenditures as it deems necessary
3 to maintain and operate such schools.

4 B. 1. Instructional Personnel. The Director of the State
5 Department of Rehabilitation Services shall employ or contract with
6 such qualified instructional personnel including, but not limited
7 to, teachers, and such other persons serving in an instructional
8 capacity, as the director deems necessary for the proper operation
9 of each school and shall fix their duties and compensation. The
10 superintendent, teachers and other employees shall be eligible for
11 membership or participation in the Teachers' Retirement System of
12 Oklahoma to the same extent and on the same basis as teachers and
13 other employees of other state educational institutions and public
14 schools. The Director shall not employ or contract with a person as
15 instructional personnel unless the superintendent of the school has
16 recommended that person. If there is a vacancy in the
17 superintendent position or if the superintendent is unable to make a
18 recommendation within thirty (30) days after a request for a
19 recommendation is made, the Director is authorized to employ or
20 contract with any person without a recommendation from the
21 superintendent.

22 2. Career Teacher. A career teacher is a member of the
23 instructional staff who has served in an instructional capacity for
24 three (3) or more consecutive years in either school, or who has

1 served in a public school district in such a way so as to meet the
2 definition of a career teacher as provided for in Section 6-101.3 of
3 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Career teacher shall not include
4 a school nurse.

5 3. Probationary Teacher. A probationary teacher is a member of
6 the instructional staff who has served in an instructional capacity
7 for less than three (3) consecutive years in either school, or who
8 has served in a public school district in such a way so as to meet
9 the definition of a probationary teacher as provided for in Section
10 6-101.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

11 C. Administrative Personnel.

12 1. The Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation
13 Services shall employ or appoint the superintendent of each school
14 and shall fix their duties and compensation. The superintendents
15 shall be in the unclassified service.

16 2. The Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation
17 Services shall employ or contract with such other administrative
18 personnel as the Director deems necessary for the proper operation
19 of each school and shall fix their duties and compensation. The
20 administrative personnel may include, but is not limited to,
21 assistant superintendents, principals, vice-principals and other
22 persons who devote a majority of their time to service in a
23 supervisory or administrative capacity.

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1 D. An orientation and mobility specialist employed by the State
2 Department of Rehabilitation Services to serve at the Oklahoma
3 School for the Blind shall be accorded the same protection of laws
4 and all other benefits accorded instructional personnel, including
5 but not limited to, the minimum salary level for instructional
6 personnel.

7 E. 1. The Commission shall, pursuant to the Administrative
8 Procedures Act, adopt personnel policies for instructional and
9 administrative personnel, except for superintendents, that are
10 consistent with the law applicable to public school district
11 employees, including, but not limited to, leave, payment for unused
12 personal leave and employment policies, evaluation policy, grievance
13 procedures, professional development, and a minimum salary schedule.
14 The Commission shall initiate a rulemaking process for the personnel
15 policies for instructional and administrative personnel no later
16 than October 1, 2003. The minimum salary level for qualified
17 instructional personnel shall meet or exceed the minimum salary
18 level provided for public school teachers in Section 18-114.14 of
19 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or any additional minimum salary
20 schedule enacted by the Legislature and the Commission shall meet or
21 exceed any other legislatively mandated pay raises for teachers that
22 are not part of the minimum salary schedule. The Department shall
23 notify teachers and other personnel on or before the first Monday in
24 June of each year concerning the renewal of contracts consistent

1 with the requirements for public school teachers as provided for in
2 Section 6-101 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The policy for
3 professional development programs for instructional and
4 administrative personnel shall be consistent with the requirements
5 for professional development programs for public school teachers as
6 provided in Section 6-194 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

7 2. Final disciplinary action taken against a member of the
8 instructional or administrative staff, except superintendents,
9 including termination or the nonrenewal of a contract, shall be
10 subject to the administrative hearing procedures as set forth in
11 Article II of the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act. If the
12 final decision of the Director is to terminate or to not renew the
13 contract of a career teacher or administrator, the career teacher or
14 administrator, except superintendent, shall not have a right to
15 judicial review pursuant to Article II of the Oklahoma
16 Administrative Procedures Act, but shall have a right to a trial de
17 novo as provided for in Section 1419a of this title. Disciplinary
18 action against a probationary teacher shall be final unless
19 otherwise provided for by law.

20 F. The State Department of Education shall insure that any
21 funds which have been received in Oklahoma by the State Department
22 of Education because of students who are enrolled and attending the
23 Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma School for the Deaf
24 are transferred to the State Department of Rehabilitation Services

1 for use by these schools in proportion to the number of students
2 enrolled and attending who were the basis for the receipt of these
3 federal funds.

4 G. School personnel who have entered into contracts with the
5 schools on or before July 1, 1995, shall be entitled to longevity
6 pay as provided in Section 840-2.18 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
7 Statutes.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
11 04/11/2019 - DO PASS.

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