



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

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## RED BANNER UPDATE

**Date:** April 26, 2021

**Re:** HB 1593

**Signed:** April 21, 2021

**Effective:** November 1, 2021

**Topic:** Required Professional Development Programs

**Summary:** This Act amends four statutes. School districts are required to provide new and recurrent teacher professional development programs and training. Local school boards must, beginning November 1, 2021, require their certified teachers to complete the following professional development programs in their first year of employment with the district, in addition to those already required by law. These must be repeated these at set intervals.

### **Programs Which Must Be Repeated Every Third Academic Year**

- Recognizing Mental Health Needs of Students

Boards must require a training program for teachers that emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing the mental health needs of students. These must be completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by the district and then once every third academic year.

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Pursuant to guidelines and criteria set by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Department of Education in conjunction with the Oklahoma Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy Board, certified teachers must complete in-service training (training or workshop) on alcohol and drug abuse the first year they are employed with the district and then once every third academic year.



### **Programs Which Must Be Repeated at Intervals Set by the Board**

- Digital Teaching and Learning Standards

Boards must require a program for teachers which emphasizes the importance of digital teaching and learning standards. This must be completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by the district and then at a frequency determined by the board.

- Incorporating Workplace Safety into the Curriculum

Boards must require a program for teachers of seventh through twelfth grade that emphasizes the importance of incorporating workplace safety training into the curriculum. This must be completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by the district and then at a frequency determined by the local board.

Please visit the firm's website to view the signed Act.

RFR attorneys are reviewing this legislation and will be advising clients as to any recommended changes to existing district policies.