



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

RED BANNER UPDATE

Date: May 10, 2023

Re: HB 1441

Signed: April 23, 2023

Effective: November 1, 2022

Topic: **Professional Development and Training**

Summary: This Act amends portions of several statutes related to professional development and training.

Professional Development Procedure for Continuing Education of Teachers

HB 1441 first amends OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, §§ 6-192, which contains procedures for the continuing professional development requirements for teachers. The amendment changes the frequency during which professional development shall emphasize the importance of digital teaching and learning standards. Under the amendment, the program for teachers that emphasizes the importance of digital teaching and learning standards shall be completed “at a frequency as determined by the board of education.”

Professional Development Programs – Development and Adoption

HB 1441 also amends OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-194, which pertains to the development and adoption of various types of professional development programs.

First, HB 1441 removes the language of OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-194(A), which provided that for fiscal years ending June 30, 2011 and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for certified teachers and administrators of the district.

Second, HB 1441 altered the frequency during which programs including components on classroom management and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or custodians of students, special education, and racial and

ethnic education shall be offered to teachers as defined in OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 1-116. The amendment provides that such program components “shall be required . . . at a frequency as determined by the board of education.”

Third, regarding training on child abuse and neglect, the HB 1441 amended the statutory language to require training “be completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school district, and then once every fifth academic year.”

Finally, HB 1441 provides a cap for professional development hours. More specifically, the amendment provides that “not more than a total of one hundred fifty (150) hours of local, state, or federal professional development or training shall be required for classroom teachers during any five-year period.” This amendment further requires teachers to maintain written documentation of all their completed professional development.

Development and Availability of Mental Health Training

With respect to mental health training for school employees, HB 1441 amends the language of OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-194.3 to require the frequency of any mental health training program to be completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by the district and then once every fifth academic year.

Induction Training

HB 1441 also amends OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-195(B) to state that induction program training “shall be completed at a frequency as determined by the board of education.”

Workplace Safety Training Curriculum

Regarding the program for teachers that emphasizes the importance of incorporating workplace safety training into curriculum, HB 1441 amends OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 11-103.6j to require the program for seventh-grade through twelfth-grade teachers to be completed “at a frequency as determined by the board.”

Safety and Bullying

HB 1441 amends the frequency requirements for training on bullying under OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-100.4(A)(9). The amendment now requires training on bullying to be completed the first year an administrator or school employee is employed by a school district, and then once every fifth academic year.



Suicide Awareness and Prevention

HB 1441 also amends the training requirements for suicide awareness and prevention under OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-100.7. Under the amendment, training on suicide awareness and prevention shall be provided to all staff members in their first year of employment with the district and then once every fifth academic year.

For more information on HB 1441, please visit the firm's website to view the signed legislation.

Legal counsel at the firm is currently reviewing this legislation and will be advising clients as to any recommended changes to existing district policies.