

**TITLE 210. STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**CHAPTER 20. STAFF**  
**SUBCHAPTER 9. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS: TEACHER EDUCATION**  
**AND CERTIFICATION**  
**PART 9. TEACHER CERTIFICATION**

**210:20-9-102. Career development program for paraprofessionals**

(a) **Paraprofessional credential.** The State Department of Education shall issue a paraprofessional credential to an applicant who meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Has a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) Diploma;
- (2) Has met a career development paraprofessional program approved by the State Board of Education; and
- (3) Has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national fingerprint-based criminal history record provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary credential which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person applying for a credential shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

(b) **Provisional teaching certificates - paraprofessional.** The State Department of Education shall issue a ~~one-year provisional teaching certificate, renewable for up to~~ **valid for up to three (3) years**, in early childhood, elementary education, or special education to a paraprofessional who meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Has been employed for one full school year (i.e., two consecutive semesters, three consecutive trimesters, or four consecutive quarters) in an accredited public or private school as a paraprofessional in the area for which a certificate is being pursued. For purposes of this paragraph, experience obtained while teaching with a non-traditional certification in special education issued in accordance with the provisions of 210:20-9-105 shall not count toward the one year experience requirement;
- (2) Has earned at least a bachelor's degree from a college or university whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has attained a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale;
- (3) Has passed all of the following teacher competency examinations adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation prior to July 1, 2014, or adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on and after July 1, 2014:
  - (A) The Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET);
  - (B) The Oklahoma Subject Area Test (OSAT) in Early Childhood, Elementary Education, or Special Education; and
  - (C) The Oklahoma Professional Teaching Exam (OPTE) (PK-8);
- (4) Has on file with the State Board of Education a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national fingerprint-based criminal history record provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary credential which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person applying for a credential shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records;
- (5) Has made application to the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

(c) **Standard teaching certificate - paraprofessional.** The State Department of Education shall issue a standard teaching certificate to individuals who have met all of the requirements of (b) of this section and met all of the following requirements:

(1) The applicant has successfully completed at least one (1) full school year (i.e., two consecutive semesters, three consecutive trimesters, or four consecutive quarters) of teaching service in a public or private school accredited by the State Board of Education or a private school accrediting organization approved by the Board;

(2) The applicant provides at least two (2) favorable recommendations for granting a standard teaching certificate to the applicant from:

(A) A school district board of education; and

(B) The chair or director of the accredited teacher preparation program in which the applicant completed the coursework requirements set forth in (3) of this subsection.

(3) Within three (3) years of initial issuance of the provisional teaching certificate in accordance with the provisions of (b) of this Section, the applicant has successfully completed twelve (12) semester hours of professional education coursework from an institution of higher education whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The twelve (12) hours of coursework required by this paragraph shall consist of coursework that:

(A) Is offered in a teacher preparation program that has been accredited by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation prior to July 1, 2014 or accredited by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on and after July 1, 2014;

(B) Is related to the area of teacher certification sought;

(C) Includes a minimum of three (3) semester hours in reading instruction.

(d) **Reporting.** Any individual who has been issued a provisional certificate in accordance with the provisions of (b) of this Section shall be reported on the certified personnel report and be considered as any other certified employee.