



JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Janet Barresi

DATE: April 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Exceptions to certain alternative certification requirements for University of Tulsa Graduates

The University of Tulsa's teacher education programs in math, science, English, history and foreign languages are not currently approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation (OCTP). Current State Department of Education (SDE) administration has recently been made aware of an undocumented agreement between The University of Tulsa and previous SDE staff.

This agreement allowed for those who completed the aforementioned programs to become certified through the Alternative Placement Program without meeting the statutory requirements of previous work experience (or post baccalaureate coursework) as mandated in 70 O.S. § 6-122.3, and bypassing the Teacher Competency Review Panel (TCRP) as mandated in 70 O.S. § 6-202. While the SDE recognizes the unique nature of this situation, we also recognize that without the proper authority in law or SDE rules approval of the State Board of Education should have been solicited before these credentials were issued. According to the aforementioned statute:

“The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the requirements for licensure and certification and, upon demonstration by an individual of specific competency in the subject area of specialization, may grant a license or certificate to the individual. The State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant exceptions.”

The University of Tulsa anticipates OCTP approval for all programs by this June and respectfully requests (see attached) that all teacher education candidates in these areas who graduate before June 2012 and pass the appropriate competency examinations, be exempted from the requirements of previous work experience and the TCRP in the Alternative Placement Program.

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Attachment