



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: Waiver of degree major requirement for David S. Milner for Alternative Certification

Mr. Milner received an acceptance letter to pursue alternative certification in business from previous staff in December, 2010. After passing the exams he was instructed to take, he submitted an application to interview with the Teacher Competency Review Panel (TCRP). Upon reviewing this application it was discovered that Mr. Milner's major was in Religious Studies with a minor in business. Part of the requirements for alternative certification according to 70 O.S. § 6-122.3 are that the applicant *"Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical certificate."*

Since religious studies does not correspond to an area of specialization offered Mr. Milner's major does not satisfy this requirement and he should not have been approved to seek certification. Because he received incorrect advisement from previous SDE staff he was allowed to interview with the TCRP. After the interview, the TCRP determined Mr. Milner is a competent candidate to teach. However, since he did not meet the statutory degree major requirement the TCRP did not feel comfortable with giving a recommendation to the State Board of Education (SBE). Therefore, the Teacher Certification Section of the Oklahoma State Department of Education is requesting that the SBE approve the certification for Mr. David S. Milner. State Board of Education authority to grant exceptions to the requirements for licensure/certification is provided by 70 O.S. § 6-122.3.

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