

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2024

HOUSE BILL No. 2521

By Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Requested by Representative Thomas

1-17

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to the state board of education;
2 authorizing teaching licenses for individuals who complete an
3 alternative teacher certification program.

4
5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) The state board of education shall authorize any
7 individual who has completed an alternative teacher certification program
8 to apply for and obtain an initial teaching license **subject to the**
9 **requirements of this section.** ~~Such applicant shall not be required to~~
10 ~~comply with either of the following requirements as a prerequisite to~~
11 ~~obtaining a teaching license pursuant to this section:~~

12 ~~(1) Complete a professional education pedagogy coursework at an~~
13 ~~accredited college or university engaged in teacher preparation; or~~

14 ~~(2) hold a valid teaching license in another state that was earned~~
15 ~~through completion of an alternative teacher certification program.~~

16 (b) An applicant who applies for an initial teaching license pursuant
17 to this section shall:

18 (1) Submit an official transcript confirming the granting of a
19 bachelor's degree or higher **from a college or university that has an**
20 **accreditation recognized by the state board of education;**

21 (2) submit proof of completion of the alternative teacher certification
22 program;

23 (3) submit an application for an initial license with the required
24 licensure fee; and

25 (4) complete all background check requirements.

26 (c) An applicant who obtains an initial teaching license pursuant to
27 this section shall be authorized to teach the subject area and educational
28 level that correspond to the certification received through the applicant's
29 successful completion of the alternative teacher certification program,
30 including:

31 (1) Elementary education;

32 (2) elementary education ~~with a reading endorsement~~ **unified;**

33 (3) English language arts;

34 (4) ~~United States and world~~ **history, government and social studies;**

35 (5) mathematics;

- 1 (6) general science;
- 2 (7) biology;
- 3 (8) chemistry;
- 4 (9) physics; ~~and~~
- 5 (10) **secondary education unified; and**
- 6 (11) **high-incidence and low-incidence** special education.

7 (d) (1) ~~Except as provided in paragraph (2),~~ **Prior to the granting of**
 8 **an initial teaching license to any applicant pursuant to this section, the**
 9 **state board of education may establish and grant to any such**
 10 **individual a restricted or probationary teaching license while such**
 11 **individual completes any mentorship program required pursuant to**
 12 **paragraph (3).**

13 (2) The state board shall treat an individual who successfully
 14 **completes a mentorship program under a restricted or probationary**
 15 **teaching license and any individual who** obtains an initial teaching
 16 license pursuant to this section in the same manner as an individual who
 17 completes a traditional teacher preparation program and receives an initial
 18 teaching license, including during the process of converting such initial
 19 teaching license to another license type.

20 ~~(2)(3) The state board may require~~ An individual who obtains **or**
 21 **seeks to obtain** an initial teaching license pursuant to this section ~~to~~ **shall**
 22 participate in a school district-based teacher mentorship program during
 23 the first-year **two years** such person is employed by a school district in this
 24 state.

25 (e) The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations
 26 necessary to carry out this section.

27 (f) As used in this section, "alternative teacher certification program"
 28 means a teacher preparation program that:

- 29 (1) Operates in at least five states;
- 30 (2) has been in operation for at least 10 years;
- 31 (3) includes subject-area content training and pedagogical training
 32 that covers effective instructional delivery, classroom management and
 33 organization, assessment, instructional design and professional learning
 34 and leadership; and
- 35 (4) requires applicants to pass a subject area examination and a
 36 pedagogy examination to successfully complete the program.

37 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
 38 publication in the statute book.