We would like to invite you to join our webinar on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. Please see the webinar address at the end of this message. This webinar will be provided for you to learn more about a pending bill that would assist with increasing the number of Special Education teachers in Oklahoma through an alternative route to certification.

OK HB1233 is pending legislative approval. This legislation would provide an alternative route for special education teacher certification. One of the requirements would be for applicants to attend a 150 hour training and field experience program or "Boot Camp." Please assist the State Department of Education with pre-planning to prepare for the next steps if this bill passes. Here is summary of the application and training requirements.

Applicants for the alternative certification must:

- Have earned any four year degree from an Institute of Higher Education (IHE) holding Regional accreditation.
- Have at least a 2.75 minimal GPA or meet university entrance requirements.
- Not necessarily have prior district employment – but might be substitutes or paraprofessional.
- Make a commitment to teach in a special education classroom in Oklahoma as the teacher of record for the entire three years of the program.
- Have passed Basic Skills Test (OGET) or an equivalent exam by the completion of Boot Camp.
- Have a recommendation from an appropriate source.
- Submit standardized application with requirements checked off by District/University.
- Have submitted necessary paperwork and finger prints for background check (FBI).
- Have made at this time a commitment to apply to the university of choice to complete a certification program or a master's degree leading to full certification in special education.

Districts must apply through the Teacher Commission to host a Boot Camp.

- Boot Camps consist of 150 hours that include the following:
- Introduction to Special Education
- IEP's
- Behavioral Management
- Effective Teaching and Reading Strategies
- Assessment
- Thirty hours of field based experiences (observations, one-on-one, small group and large group activities)
- Legal and Ethical Issues

Please join us for a webinar on April 10th at 4:00 p.m. to learn more about this fantastic opportunity to address the Special Education Teacher

Shortage needs in your district. The web address is http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/NASDE. The call in number is **1-877-820-7831** and the passcode is **431539#.**