



OKLAHOMA STATE
DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

To: School Districts
From: Office of Teacher Certification and Office of Special Education Services
Re: HB 2329, signed into law by Governor Stitt on April 21, 2021

HB 2329 provides for an exemption to the requirements of all teacher certification examinations for deaf teacher candidates. In order to be considered for an exemption as provided by HB 2329, the teacher candidate must be deaf with a hearing loss so severe that the person cannot process linguistic information with or without accommodations and whose primary language and teaching environment is American Sign Language. The exemption may be granted upon satisfaction of all the following criteria:

- 1) Verification by a licensed audiologist of a hearing loss so severe that the person cannot process linguistic information with or without accommodations. [Accommodations refers to listening technologies such as hearing aids or cochlear implants]; and
- 2) Demonstration of fluency in American Sign Language. [Recommended verification: Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) Advanced or above; American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI), Level 3 or above]; and
- 3) Demonstration of competency in the subject area of specialization as approved by the OSDE in lieu of certification exams. [The OSDE will review transcripts and determine whether additional courses are required]; and
- 4) Sponsorship by a certified teacher of the deaf for a mentorship program. [A letter from the school superintendent or designee indicating that the deaf teacher candidate meets the criteria and naming the certified deaf education teacher who will serve as a mentor].

Once these criteria are met, the OSDE will issue appropriate certification credentials.