



Senate Bill 83

TSPC Bill Summary on SB 83:

SB 83 establishes supervised clinical practice experience requirements for applicants for initial teaching license. Directs Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to convene work group to assist with implementation of requirements. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

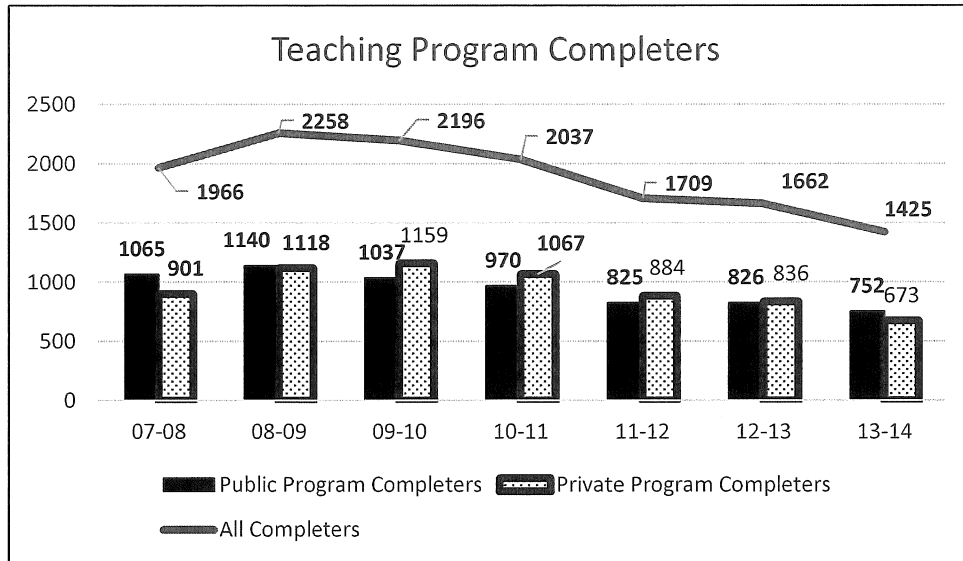
Specifically, the bill requires:

- Applicants for Initial Teaching Licenses to complete a supervised clinical practice experience. The clinical practice:
 - May include student teaching, internships, observations and similar experiences;
 - Must be under the direction of:
 - A supervisor from the approved teacher education program where the applicant is a student; and
 - A teacher who is from the school district where the applicant is completing the supervised clinical practice experience and who:
 - Possesses a teaching license issued by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission;
 - Has been an effective teacher for three or more years, as determined under rules adopted by the Commission; and
 - Is trained to supervise the applicant during the applicant's supervised clinical practice experience and to work in partnership with the applicant's supervisor from an approved teacher education program.
- The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to convene a work group to assist with the implementation of the requirements for supervised clinical practice experiences. The work group must:
 - Include representatives of teacher education programs, public universities, cooperating teachers (per proposed amendment) from school districts and nonprofit organizations.
 - Develop standards and guidelines for the training of teachers who supervise persons during a supervised clinical practice experience.
 - Recommend any legislative changes necessary for the implementation of requirements related to supervised clinical practice experiences.
 - Identify possible funding sources necessary for the implementation of requirements related to supervised clinical practice experiences.
 - Develop a plan that provides for the training of teachers from school districts who will provide supervision during supervised clinical practice experiences so that:
 - 500 teachers are trained each school year beginning in the 2017-18 school year (per proposed amendment) until the 2020-2021 school year; and
 - 100 teachers are trained during the 2020-2021 school year and each subsequent school year.
- The Supervised Clinical Experience to begin in the 2020-2021 school year.



TSPC Background Information on Clinical Practices Requirements:

On average, Oregon has approximately 1,900 teacher preparation program completers each year, though the number of completers has been trending downward in recent years.



The Commission currently requires that all candidates in teacher preparation programs participate in supervised student teaching at least 15 weeks (at least 9 weeks fulltime) or internship (usually a year) practicum experiences as part of their teacher preparation program completion requirements.

School-based personnel (the teachers who supervise the candidates and who are employed by the p-12 school or district) are required to be part of the candidate’s clinical practice supervisory team. The team evaluates the candidate’s student teaching or internship experience.

The Commission currently does not have some training requirements for the School-based personnel who supervise candidates participating in clinical experiences as part of their teacher preparation program. However, it is not standards based, nor mandatory. The training is institutional based and varies in degree and approach.

The Commission is not involved in the selection of classroom teachers who supervise candidates. This process is conducted exclusively between the higher education programs and the partnering school districts.

Research indicates that “master” teachers should be supervising candidates; merely receiving training may not ensure high quality supervision.

SB 83 Implementation:

SB 83 requires the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to develop a plan that provides for the training of teachers from school districts who will provide supervision during supervised clinical practice experiences so that:

- 500 teachers are trained each school year until the 2020-2021 school year; and
- 100 teachers are trained during the 2020-2021 school year and each subsequent school year.

SB 83 also requires the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to convene a work group to assist with the implementation of the requirements of the supervised clinical practice experiences. The bill seems to require that training teachers would not begin until a work group can be convened; the standards for training are developed; the costs of training are estimated; and the source of training funds are identified. At the same time, the bill seems to require that 500 teachers should be trained each school year until 2020-2021 school year. The agency assumes this provision requires starting training in the 2015-16 school year – prior to the completion of the work group. These two provisions may need to be reconciled for timing issues. (The proposed amendments seek to remedy this issue.)

There is currently a shortage of teachers and placements available to supervise candidates. Based on current shortage experiences, it may be difficult to find 500 teachers per year who are able and willing to become supervisory school personnel. Moreover, with new training and other expectations, fewer teachers may be willing to become supervisors of student teachers without remuneration for the training costs and for the additional work responsibilities. At present, it is a violation of Oregon's ethics laws for p-12 supervising teachers to be compensated (directly) for the extra time it takes them to supervise a "teacher-in-training." Some collective bargaining agreements, however, may include provisions that permit remuneration to the teacher by the district for supervising student teachers.

The Commission has no legal authority to compel the training of supervisor personnel other than to require that teacher preparation programs not place candidates in a classroom *unless* the supervising teacher has been trained. If teachers refuse to complete the supervision training, the shortage of clinical placements may increase. The newly-created, Distinguished teacher licensure, however, may provide the opportunity for recognition for the leadership work of cooperating teacher.

Lastly, the Commission defines "clinical experience" as student teaching. The "clinical experience" term does not include other field experiences that a student may participate in. This bill relates to the student teaching-clinical experience only. To try to have a trained supervisor over every field experience would not be feasible.