

CRIMINAL RECORDS SEARCHES

It shall be the policy of the technology center that it will obtain the results of a national criminal history record check (“record check”), as defined by OKLA. STAT. tit. 74, §150.9, of every prospective employee and conduct an annual search of the Oklahoma Sex Offender and Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offender Registries with respect to all employees who offer or provide services to children, including but not limited to secondary students.

The provisions of this policy shall not apply to school district employees hired on a part-time or temporary basis for the instruction of adult students only. The district may waive an initial criminal record check for any employee who has obtained certification from the Oklahoma State Department of Education within the past twelve (12) months.

Felony Record Search of Prospective Employees

During the first interview with each employment applicant, the technology center will advise the applicant that:

1. The technology center requires a record check of every prospective employee as a condition of employment;
2. To enable technology center to request the search and obtain the results, the applicant must complete and sign an authorization and release form provided by the technology center;
3. The technology center will only request a felony record search if the superintendent recommends employment of the applicant;
4. If the superintendent recommends employment of the applicant, the applicant must permit himself/herself to be fingerprinted, if applicable, provide a social security number, and provide any other information necessary to facilitate the felony record search; and
5. The applicant, if placed on duty prior to receipt of the felony search results, will be classified as a temporary employee until the technology center is notified that the search is clear of any felony conviction(s) within the past ten (10) years, or at any time if the conviction shows a tendency to be a danger to the health/safety of students or if the conviction indicates a potential conflict with the duties to be performed by the applicant. All felony record searches will be made in compliance with the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

If the results of the record check are not received by the technology center within sixty (60) days, if the record check reveals a prior felony offense conviction(s) within the past ten (10) years, or at any time if the conviction shows a tendency to be a danger to the health/safety of students or if the conviction indicates a potential conflict with the duties to be performed by the applicant, or if the record check reveals a false response to one or more of the questions on the authorization and release, the applicant shall be deemed to have resigned his or her employment. The administration will review the facts and circumstances of each situation and decide whether to recommend the resignation be accepted. Such resignation may be accepted by the Board of Education at any time. Under these circumstances, the applicant waives any due process procedures that might be available under federal and state law and technology center policies and procedures. The sixty (60) day temporary employment period shall begin on the first day the prospective employee

reports for duty at the technology center.

The technology center may waive the requirement to obtain a new records search if the applicant for a full-time teaching position has been employed as a full-time or substitute teacher in another Oklahoma school district, produces a copy of an existing national criminal history record check from within the past five (5) years, and produces an original letter from the former district stating that the employee left in good standing.

Felony Record Searches of Employees

The technology center will also request a record check of the name, fingerprints, social security number, or other relevant information of any current technology center employee if the board or superintendent requests a search of that employee's felony record.

Felony Record Searches of Substitutes

The technology center may, at its discretion, require a national criminal history record search for substitutes of the same type and using the same standards applicable to prospective employees, or it may obtain a current records search, if available, from a school district that employed the substitute in the year preceding prospective employment by the technology center. Likewise, any person seeking employment as a substitute who has been employed as a full-time teacher by a school district in the State of Oklahoma in the five (5) years immediately preceding application for employment as a substitute, is not required to obtain a national criminal history record check if the teacher produces a copy of a national criminal history record check completed within the preceding five (5) years and a letter from the district in which the teacher was last employed stating the teacher left in good standing. Similarly, any person seeking employment as a substitute who has been employed as a full-time teacher by a school district for ten (10) or more consecutive years immediately preceding application for employment as a substitute and who left full-time employment with the school district in good standing is not be required to have a national criminal history record check for as long as the person remains employed as a substitute for consecutive years by the technology center.

Felony Record Searches of Volunteers

The technology center may, at its discretion, require a national criminal history record search for any volunteer, who has substantive contact with minor students, of the same type and using the same standards applicable to prospective employees or some other national criminal history records search that uses social security numbers instead of fingerprints. All felony record searches will be made in compliance with the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Annual Search of Sex Offender and Violent Crime Offender Registries

Pursuant to OKLA. STAT. tit. 57, § 589, the technology shall conduct an annual name search against the Oklahoma Sex Offenders Registry and the Mary Rippey Violent Crime Offenders Registry of all employees who provide or offer services to secondary students and children.