

# Oklahoma Elementary Mathematics Specialist

## A Statewide Certification Process

### 2012 OEMS FACTSHEET

<http://okmathspecialist.org/>

**What is OEMS?** OEMS is a process that allows elementary and/or early childhood teachers to earn their elementary mathematics specialist certification in grades PK-5. The certification process and requirement was approved by the Oklahoma State Department of Education during the February 23, 2012, Board meeting.

**How do I get OEMS Certification?** You have to first meet the OEMS program prerequisites: (1) have valid teacher certification in Elementary Education and/or Early Childhood Education; (2) have two years of full-time teaching experience in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 at an accredited school under a valid state issued teacher credential.

In order to obtain certification in Oklahoma as an Elementary Mathematics Specialist, you must fulfill the following requirements:

- Eighteen hours of graduate coursework at one of the institutions of higher education offering OEMS courses;
- Passing score on the Oklahoma Elementary Mathematics Specialist certification examination;
- Application with the university's recommendation for OEMS certification submitted to the Oklahoma State Department of Education along with \$25 application fee.

**Can I start working on OEMS Certification now?** No. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation is developing the OEMS certification assessment that will be ready in September 2013. At present, eight (8) universities are developing the coursework (OU, OSU, NSU, SOUS, ECU, Cameron, NWOSU, and UCO). You will need to contact each institution to find out when the classes will be offered.

**What is the Benefit to become an OEMS Professional?** Now, more than ever teachers need to have vital tools to meet the needs of Common Core State Standards' rigors and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career's (PARCC's) in-depth assessments, which Oklahoma has adopted to implement in 2014. OEMS professionals must know and understand elementary school mathematics as well as how mathematics concepts and skills develop through the secondary level. This includes specialized knowledge that teachers need in order to understand and support student learning of elementary mathematics. OEMS professionals also need to be prepared to take on collegial non-evaluative leadership roles within their schools and districts. They must have a broad view of many aspects and resources needed to support and facilitate effective instruction and professional growth.

**Whom to contact for more information about OEMS:** Contact Saeed Sarani, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, (405) 225-9192, [ssarani@osrhe.edu](mailto:ssarani@osrhe.edu),

**Collaborative Partners:** Common Education, Higher Education, Oklahoma State Department of Education, Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and four national mathematics educational organizations (AMTE, NCSM, ASSM, and NCTM).