

# Student Teachers Learn About New Requirements

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Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators Executive Director Ginger Tinney visits with student teacher candidates at Southwestern Oklahoma State University about new requirements in the field of education.

Thirty-two 2011 fall semester student teachers at Southwestern Oklahoma State University are experiencing real-life situations on the Weatherford campus.

As a new requirement this semester, student teachers are required to have liability insurance prior to their student teaching experience.

The SWOSU Department of Education is working to better prepare teacher candidates by being proactive and helping them to be equipped with this tool of protection, according to Bruce Belanger, coordinator of student teaching at SWOSU. In this age of accountability, there are many situations for which teachers must prepare.

SWOSU student teachers recently heard from representatives of the Oklahoma Education Association and the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators, both of whom offer student memberships which include a service of liability insurance.

“Many school districts now require student teachers and other volunteers/tutors to have both liability insurance and background checks, said Ruth Boyd, interim chair of the SWOSU Department of Education. “ We are providing opportunities for our teacher candidates to acquire this necessary insurance and also providing the service of a certified background check.”

Foundations of Education course students who will be observing at least 30 clock hours in the public schools are now required to have a certified background check.

The student teachers will begin their actual classroom experience on September 19 for a 12-week period.

For more information about the SWOSU Department of Education and/or its student teaching and field experience program, contact either Boyd at 580.774.3143 or [ruth.boyd@swosu.edu](mailto:ruth.boyd@swosu.edu) or Belanger at 580.774.3146 or [bruce.belanger@swosu.edu](mailto:bruce.belanger@swosu.edu).