

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 43rd Legislature (1991)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 63

BY: SHEDRICK of the SENATE

and

THOMPSON of the HOUSE

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING SECTION 7, CHAPTER 329, O.S.L. 1985, AS LAST AMENDED BY SECTION 19, CHAPTER 2, O.S.L. SUPP. 1989 (70 O.S. SUPP. 1990, SECTION 1210.508), WHICH RELATES TO THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM ACT; DEFERRING CERTAIN TEST REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 7, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 1985, as last amended by Section 19, Chapter 2, O.S.L. Supp. 1989 (70 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 1210.508), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508 A. In every school year, the State Board of Education shall cause a norm-referenced test to be administered to every student enrolled in grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven of the public schools of this state. The test used shall be selected by the Board and shall measure specific skills represented by learner objectives. The student skills to be tested at the specified grade levels shall include reading, mathematics, language arts, communications, science and the principles of citizenship in

the United States and other countries through the study of the ideals, history and government of the United States and other countries of the world, and through the study of the principles of democracy as they apply in the lives of citizens. Because the purpose of such norm-referenced testing is to focus on the progress of students and to diagnose a student's strengths and weaknesses, the Board shall seek to ensure that data yielded from the test is utilized at the school district level to prescribe skill reinforcement and/or remediation by requiring school districts to develop and implement a specific program of improvement based on the test results.

B. The State Department of Education shall review existing norm-referenced tests commercially available and shall designate for statewide use those tests which evaluate the broadest range of identified, age-appropriate competencies. Such review process shall be coordinated, to the maximum extent possible, with the work of the Oklahoma Curriculum Committee. The first report of the review shall be filed by the State Board of Education with the Oklahoma Legislature on or before June 30, 1992, and shall be filed with the Oklahoma Legislature on June 30 every third year thereafter.

C. In every school year, the Board shall cause a norm-referenced writing assessment test to be administered to every seventh- and tenth-grade student.

D. Beginning with the 1992-93 school year, the Board shall cause a criterion-referenced test to be administered to every student enrolled in the twelfth grade of the public schools of this state. This test shall be designed to indicate whether competencies expected of Oklahoma high school graduates, as defined by the Board, have been mastered by the student. The test shall include sections on reading and writing of English, ~~culture and the arts,~~ mathematics, science, ~~geography~~ and the history and government of the United States. Beginning with the 1994-95 school year, the test

shall include sections on culture and the arts and on geography.
Students shall not be subject to the loss of a diploma for failure
to perform satisfactorily on sections of the test on geography and
culture and the arts until the 1997-98 school year. Specific
competencies expected and measures of satisfactory performance shall
be determined by the Board and shall be consistent with the
curricula for instruction promulgated by the Board. Each
twelfth-grade student shall have the opportunity to take the test
not later than the end of October of the twelfth-grade year. Each
such student who does not perform satisfactorily on all sections of
the test shall have additional opportunities during the remainder of
the student's twelfth-grade enrollment to retake sections of the
test on which performance was unsatisfactory. Except as otherwise
provided by law, and effective September 1, 1992, a student shall
not receive a diploma from a public high school of this state until
that student has performed satisfactorily on all sections of said
test. A student who completes the requirements for graduation from
a public high school of this state, but who does not qualify for a
diploma as a result of this act shall receive a Certificate of
Attendance and Completion. For purposes of test development, the
Board is authorized to conduct pilot testing during the 1989-90,
1990-91, and 1991-92 school years.

E. Beginning with the 1991-1992 school year, the Board shall
develop and, beginning with the 1992-93 school year, shall
administer and incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing
Program, other testing programs or procedures necessary to measure
additional competencies of students which are not adequately
measured by the tests required by this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1991.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

43-1-6399

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