ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 583

BY: MILES-LaGRANGE, HORNER, SHEDRICK, WILLIAMS (Penny) and LONG (Ed) of the SENATE

and

MONSON, COX, ROSS, THOMPSON AND HAMILTON (Jeff) of the HOUSE

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING 70 O.S. 1991, SECTIONS 7-204, 10-105.3, 1210.541, AND 1210.561, WHICH RELATE TO THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION AND ANNEXATION ACT, PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS, LOW STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOLS, AND AT RISK GRANT PROGRAMS; DELETING CERTAIN REFERENCES TO AT RISK CHILDREN AND PROGRAMS; DESIGNATING HIGH CHALLENGE CHILDREN AND PROGRAMS; DESIGNATING HIGH CHALLENGE SCHOOLS; DELETING AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE VOLUNTEERS; DELETING REQUIREMENT OF PREPARATION OF CERTAIN RULES AND REGULATIONS; DELETING AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT; CLARIFYING LANGUAGE; DELETING OBSOLETE LANGUAGE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 7-204, is amended to read as follows:

Section 7-204. Consolidated districts and districts combined by annexation which are created pursuant to the Oklahoma School Consolidation and Annexation Act shall have for three (3) subsequent consecutive years after consolidation or annexation preference for allocations from funds appropriated to the State Board of Education for Library Resources, Community Education, Early Childhood ~~Education~~, Alternative and ~~At Risk Education~~ High Challenge Schools, Career Education, School/Community Network for Arts-in-Education, Instructional Cooperative and Technical Education, and for all other allocations made by the board on a competitive basis.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 10-105.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 10-105.3 A. The State Board of Education shall develop and implement a program of parent education which provides practical information and guidance to parents regarding the development of language, cognition, social skills, and motor development of young children. The program shall be phased in so that services will be available to parents of children under age three (3) in school districts identified by the Board as having the greatest numbers of children ~~who are~~ whose education is considered to be ~~at risk in education by the 1991-92 school year~~ a high challenge. The Board shall expand the program each year to ensure that a parent education program is offered within all school districts by the 1994-95 school year.

B. The program shall emphasize the importance of the parents of children as a child's first and most influential teachers. The parent education programs currently offered in other states should be examined as possible models for the Oklahoma program.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 1210.541, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.541 A. Each school with a student average score in the lowest quartile of Oklahoma students and whose student

average score falls below the national average score on any norm-referenced test administered pursuant to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act, Section 1210.505 et seq. of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, shall develop a program of action to address such low achievement and shall implement such program by the beginning of the fall semester of the school year following the school year for which such low achievement is reported.

B. Each school with a student average score in the lowest quartile of Oklahoma students and whose student average score falls below the national average score for three (3) consecutive years on any norm-referenced test of the Oklahoma School Testing Program shall be declared ~~academically at risk~~ a high challenge school by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall report to the Legislature ~~by November 1, 1989, and~~ every November 1 ~~thereafter~~, any and all such districts which have been declared "~~academically at risk~~ high challenge". The annual report to the Legislature shall include test scores for each school declared to be ~~at risk~~ a high challenge school for the prior three (3) years and shall include recommendations by the Board of Education as to appropriate means of intervention to ensure the proper education of the students of each such school. Recommendations as to means of intervention may include but are not necessarily limited to: provision of guidance and assistance to the school and school district; special funding; reassignment of district personnel; transfer of students; operation of the school by personnel employed by the State Department of Education; and mandatory annexation of all or part of the local school district.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 1210.561, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.561 A. Contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds designated for ~~At-Risk~~ High Challenge School grants, the State Board of Education is authorized to award one or

more such competitive grants to local education agencies or nonprofit organizations for programs providing services to high challenge children and youth. High challenge children and youth are those at risk of failing to complete a satisfactory education ~~and~~. The State Board is further authorized to award one competitive grant for operation of ~~an At-Risk~~ a High Challenge Programs Technical Assistance Center. Said programs shall not supplant programs or activities funded by the United States Government pursuant to Chapter 1 of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended. Neither shall they supplant programs funded by State Board of Education grants for alternative education or regional summer school programs.

B. Service program grant recipients shall have priority, if recommended by the Technical Assistance Center and if funds are available, for annual renewal of grants by the State Board of Education. The ~~At-Risk~~ High Challenge Programs Technical Assistance Center grant recipient shall have priority, if its operations are deemed satisfactory by the State Board of Education and if funds are available, for annual renewal of the grant.

C. ~~The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is authorized to utilize, in addition to personnel of the State Department of Education or other state agencies, the services of not more than five volunteers who are not state employees for assistance with the initial preparation of proposed rules and regulations for programs authorized by this act. Said volunteers shall be reimbursed by the State Board of Education for actual travel expenses incurred on or before May 31, 1989, pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Rules and regulations necessary for the solicitation, acceptance, and evaluation of proposals for program and technical assistance center grants authorized by this act shall, if funded by the Legislature for operation during fiscal year 1990, be presented to the State~~

~~Board of Education for emergency adoption not later than May 31, 1989.~~

~~D.~~ Rules ~~and regulations~~ adopted by the State Board of Education shall incorporate or provide for, but not necessarily be limited to:

1. Definition of the children and youth deemed ~~at risk~~ high challenge for whom services are sought;

2. The possibility of awards for one or more of a variety of program proposals targeted for services to limited portions of the ~~at-risk~~ high challenge population according to such distinctions as age groupings, rural or urban settings, other cultural characteristics, or innovative service delivery strategies;

3. Requirements that service program grant recipients have clear and measurable goals and objectives; show evidence of having given reasonable consideration to coordination with other community agencies and resources, where appropriate, in the development of their proposals; and agree to comply with all requirements of the Technical Assistance Center regarding use of assessment instruments, provision of data, and provision of information necessary for program evaluation;

4. Requirements that the recipient of the Technical Assistance Center grant show command of relevant research and demonstrate capability for: Providing technical assistance, including operation of clearinghouse functions; coordinating with agencies such as the State Arts Council of Oklahoma; performing assessment of ~~at-risk~~ high challenge children and youth; evaluating programs for effectiveness; making program cost assessments; promoting replication of successful programs; and capability for assisting program providers in attaining national validation of their programs and qualifying for federal funding;

5. Utilization of a selection committee to review applications for program and Technical Assistance Center grants and make

recommendations to the State Board of Education, said selection committee to include, to the greatest extent feasible under constraints of time and funding, nationally recognized experts in the education of high challenge children and youth ~~at risk~~; and

6. Revocation of ~~the~~ any high challenge or at risk grant ~~by~~ awarded to, and ineligibility for award of any future high challenge grant ~~pursuant to this act~~ to, any grant recipient who ~~employs within two (2) years following the effective date of this act~~ employed prior to May 24, 1991, any person ~~serving~~ who served as a volunteer ~~pursuant to subsection C of this section~~ assisting with the initial preparation of proposed rules for high challenge (formerly designated as at risk) grant programs or any person serving as a member of a selection committee during or within two (2) years following such person's service pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1992.

SECTION 6. 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.

Passed the Senate the 27th day of February, 1992.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1992.

Speaker of the House of Representatives