

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 43rd Legislature (1992)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2213

BY: GREENWOOD

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AUTHORIZING THE "SCHOOL OF YOUR CHOICE" PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR AND SPECIFYING VOUCHERS; DEFINING TERMS; PROVIDING FOR THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATORS; PROVIDING FOR ENROLLMENT; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SCHOOL BOARDS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSPORTATION; PROVIDING FOR SCHOOL ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS; SPECIFYING CERTAIN TIME PERIODS FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-114a of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. All schools, public, private and home, will participate in the "School of Your Choice" program.

B. A voucher will be used in all public schools. The amount of the voucher will be determined by dividing the total common

education budget by the total number of students enrolled in public schools. This amount will follow the student. Funds raised locally will remain in the district and will be apportioned to each school by attendance.

C. Private schools and home schoolers will receive fifty percent (50%) of the voucher amount as a tax credit, per student, or the actual expense, whichever is the lesser amount.

D. A school is not a building but it is a group of students, parents and teachers who share a common education vision with an administrator. This local school administrator will have control over the school's policies concerning hiring, dress code, discipline, goals, textbooks, curriculum, etc. The administrator may involve the "team" in the decision-making process. The administrator will define the goals, philosophy and standards and make them available to the public.

E. The administrator will make the school's goals, philosophy and standards statement available in January of each year. The school will be open daily during school hours for public inspection in January and February.

F. Students living within the attendance area of a school will be assured a place at that site if they enroll for the coming school year in February, assuming there is enough room.

G. Students living outside the attendance area will apply in March to attend the school of their choice. The number of rooms and buildings used by an administrator and staff will be determined by enrollment. Everyone will attend the school of their choice. Nothing will prevent schools that are in demand from taking over unused classroom space at sites with low enrollment. Agreements between districts for use of sites will be reached between school boards.

H. Those students desiring a school outside their attendance area will be bused to a central point, within or without the

district, where they will transfer to a bus going to their destination. Students of all ages will go to the nearest school, if within walking distance, to meet the buses. The most cost-effective method of moving students to the school of their choice should be utilized. Funding for transportation will be determined by the total number of students bused and the total number of miles driven. Mileage for field trips, athletic and other events will not be included in the computation.

I. School elections will be open to all residents of the district unless the oldest child is attending public school in another district. Voters will vote in the district that the majority of the children in the family attend or if there are only two children in the family, that district where the oldest child attends. Property taxes will remain in the district unless the oldest child is in another public school district. Property tax assessment for schools will be applied to all property in the district and to property outside the district if the oldest child in a family is enrolled in a different district.

J. School administrators will establish their goals, philosophy and standards for the school within six (6) months of the effective date of this act. Eighteen (18) months after the effective date of this act, students will be allowed to enroll in the school of their choice.

K. It is the intent of this legislation that school sites will have increasing authority to make decisions. Current mandates will be considered as suggestions. State Department of Education and local school district offices will decrease in size as more control is established at the school site. Within four (4) years of the effective date of this act, eighty percent (80%) of the total common education expenditures will be at the local site.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1992.

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.

43-2-7854

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