

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 43rd Legislature (1992)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2249

BY: GREENWOOD

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING 70 O.S. 1991,  
SECTION 1210.508, WHICH RELATES TO THE OKLAHOMA  
SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM ACT; REQUIRING A CERTAIN  
TEST TO BE ADMINISTERED IN NINTH-GRADE; PROVIDING  
REMEDATION FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS; REQUIRING A  
COMPARABLE TEST TO BE ADMINISTERED IN TWELFTH-  
GRADE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, 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~~ 1993-94 school year, the Board shall cause a criterion-referenced test to be administered to every student enrolled in the ~~twelfth~~ ninth grade of the public schools of this state. The test shall be administered no later than the end of April of the ninth-grade year. 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. 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. The results of each student's test shall be made available to the school in which the student is enrolled. The results shall be used by the school to provide subject-based remediation to those students who do not perform satisfactorily on all sections of the test. A comparable form of the criterion-referenced test shall be administered to those students who did not perform satisfactorily on all sections of the ninth-grade test no later than the end of April of the tenth-grade year. The results shall be made available to the school in which the student is enrolled and shall be used by the school to provide subject-based remediation to those students who do not perform satisfactorily on all sections of the test.

Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, the Board shall cause a comparable form of the criterion-referenced test administered to students in the ninth grade, to be administered to every student enrolled in the twelfth grade of the public schools of this state. 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, 1996, 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. 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.

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