

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 43rd Legislature (1991)

SENATE BILL NO. 223

BY: HENDRICK

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING SECTION 2,
CHAPTER 2, O.S.L. SUPP. 1989 (70 O.S. SUPP. 1990,
SECTION 3-104.4), WHICH RELATES TO STANDARDS FOR
ACCREDITATION; DELETING OBSOLETE LANGUAGE;
CLARIFYING REFERENCES; CHANGING DATE FOR CERTAIN
SCHOOLS TO MEET CERTAIN ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS;
LIMITING PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE;
CONSTRUING PROVISION OF ACT; AND PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 2, O.S.L. Supp.
1989 (70 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 3-104.4), is amended to read as
follows:

Section 3-104.4 A. ~~On or before February 1, 1991, the State
Board of Education shall adopt standards~~ Standards adopted by the
State Board of Education for the accreditation of the public schools

in this state ~~according to the requirements of this act, to be effective as set forth in this act.~~ The accreditation standards shall incorporate the curricular standards established pursuant to Section ~~6~~ 11-103.6 of this act ~~title~~ for implementation with the 1993-94 school year; ~~provided, no school shall be denied accreditation or have accreditation withdrawn prior to the 1997-98 school year solely for failure to fully implement the curricular standards.~~ The accreditation standards shall equal or exceed the accreditation standards for schools promulgated by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to the extent that such standards are consistent with an outcome-oriented approach to accreditation and to the extent the standards do not conflict with state statute. The accreditation adopted by the State Board shall encompass accreditation for elementary schools, middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools. Such accreditation standards shall be made available for public inspection at the offices of the State Department of Education.

B. Standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board of Education shall include standards relating to the provision of school counselors to the public school children of this state. ~~Beginning July 1, 1990, the~~ The State Board of Education shall require each local school district to provide information regarding the number of counselors serving each school site, the duties of all such counselors including all administrative duties, the number of students served by each counselor, and information regarding the number of counselors employed per elementary school, middle school, junior high school and high school.

C. ~~Except as otherwise provided by subsection A of this section with regard to curricular standards, as~~ As a condition of receiving state accreditation ~~pursuant to this act:~~

~~1. High~~ schools shall meet the accreditation standards not later than ~~June 30, 1995;~~ and

~~2. Elementary, middle and junior high schools shall meet the accreditation standards not later than June 30, 1999 1994.~~

Schools shall thereafter continue to meet the accreditation standards as a condition of continued accreditation. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing changes to the adopted standards by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act, Section 250 et seq. of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

D. If one or more school sites fails to receive accreditation as required pursuant to this section by the ~~dates~~ date set forth in subsection C of this section or subsequently loses such accreditation, the State Board of Education shall close the school and reassign the students to accredited schools within the district or shall annex the district to one or more other districts in which the students can be educated in accredited schools.

E. State Board accreditation regulations shall provide for warnings, and for assistance to schools and school districts requesting such assistance, whenever there is reason to believe a school is in danger of losing its state accreditation; provided, assistance shall not be provided if, in the judgment of the State Board, the district is not a viable district.

F. ~~The~~ If requested to do so, the State Board shall provide assistance to districts in considering the possibility of meeting accreditation requirements through the use of nontraditional means of instruction. The State Board shall also assist districts in forming cooperatives and making arrangements for the use of satellite instruction or other instructional technologies to the extent that use of such instructional means meets accreditation standards and is within the means of the district.

G. Nothing in this section shall be construed as relieving a school district of the responsibility for meeting accreditation requirements.

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

43-1-524

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