

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 43rd Legislature (1992)

SENATE BILL NO. 958

BY: SHEDRICK of the SENATE

and

THOMPSON of the HOUSE

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING 70 O.S. 1991,
SECTION 1210.508, WHICH RELATES TO OKLAHOMA SCHOOL
TESTING PROGRAM ACT; DIRECTING STUDY OF CERTAIN
TESTS; MODIFYING CERTAIN TESTING REQUIREMENTS AND
PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN COMPETENCY TESTS;
REQUIRING SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE REMEDIATION;
ESTABLISHING ADVANCED AND STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMAS; STATING REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD OF
DIPLOMAS; DIRECTING PROMULGATION OF RULES; DELETING
OBSOLETE LANGUAGE; 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, criterion-referenced, and performance-based 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. 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. The Board shall develop a series of criterion-referenced tests designed to indicate whether competencies expected of Oklahoma high school graduates in mathematics, science, reading and writing of English, history and government of the United States, geography, and culture and the arts, as defined by the Board, have been mastered. The tests shall be designed and implemented in correlation with the implementation of the outcomes-based curricular standards adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of this title. The series of~~

tests shall be field-tested and implemented by the following schedule:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Field-tested</u>	<u>Implemented</u>
<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>1993-94</u>	<u>1994-95</u>
<u>Science</u>	<u>1993-94</u>	<u>1994-95</u>
<u>Reading and Writing</u>		
<u>of English</u>	<u>1994-95</u>	<u>1995-96</u>
<u>History and Government</u>		
<u>of the United States</u>	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>1996-97</u>
<u>Geography</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>
<u>Culture and the Arts</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>

E. The Board shall cause the test in each subject to be field-tested to students enrolled in the eleventh grade of the public schools of this state during the year the field test for that subject is scheduled. The Board shall cause the test in each subject to be implemented by administering it to eleventh-grade students in the public schools of this state no later than October of the year scheduled for implementation. The Board shall administer tests in each implemented subject to eleventh-grade students every year after implementation. Students who do not perform satisfactorily on the implemented tests shall have additional opportunities during the remainder of the students' eleventh- and twelfth-grade years to retake the tests. School districts shall provide opportunities for remediation during the remainder of the eleventh- and twelfth-grade years to students who do not perform satisfactorily on the tests.

F. Except as otherwise provided by law, effective September 1, 1994, the student's final performance on tests implemented during or before the student's eleventh-grade year shall determine the nature of the high school diploma the student receives. A student who performs satisfactorily on all the implemented tests and has completed the requirements for graduation shall receive an Advanced

Diploma. A student who completes the requirements for graduation from a public high school of this state, but who does not qualify for an Advanced Diploma shall receive a Standard Diploma.

G. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for the development, field-testing, and validation of the criterion-referenced graduation test series required in subsection D of this section. In the interest of economy the Board shall adapt criterion-referenced tests that have been developed by other states or are otherwise commercially available, or portions of such tests, to the extent that such tests are appropriate for use in the graduation test series to be administered to Oklahoma students.

~~E. H. Beginning with the 1991-1992 school year, the~~ 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.