

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 43rd Legislature (1992)

SENATE BILL NO. 999

BY: RUBOTTOM

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING 70 O.S. 1991, SECTION 3-104.4, WHICH RELATES TO ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ALLOWING CERTAIN SCHOOLS TO MEET CERTAIN ACCREDITATION STANDARDS THROUGH CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR LIBRARY SERVICES AND STAFFING; REQUIRING STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH SUCH CONTRACTS; 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 3-104.4, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-104.4 A. ~~On or before February 1, 1991, the~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt standards 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implementation with the 1993-94 school year; provided, no school shall be denied accreditation or have accreditation withdrawn prior to the 1997-98 school year solely for failure to fully implement the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 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.

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 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 whenever there is reason to believe a school is in danger of losing its state accreditation.

F. School districts that do not have on-site library facilities that meet accreditation requirements relating to library facilities and library staffing may meet such requirements by:

1. Contracting with a public library for library services if the school's students can safely access the library; and/or

2. Contracting with one or more school districts to form a multi-district consortium through which library facilities and services that meet the accreditation standards will be shared by the contracting districts through mobile library units or computer access.

Such contracts shall be approved for purposes of meeting accreditation requirements only if the services to be provided pursuant to the contracts meet or exceed the accreditation standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

G. The State Board shall provide assistance to districts in considering the possibility of meeting accreditation requirements through the use of nontraditional means of instruction or the use of contracts for library services pursuant to subsection F of this section. 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.

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.

43-2-1889

SB