

ENROLLED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1048

By: Boyd (Betty) of the
House

and

Robinson of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution relating to children and youth with visual impairment; encouraging the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and other higher education entities to collaborate on certain shortage and training programs concerning certain special education teachers; specifying such training programs; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress passed P.L. 94-142, the Education for all Handicapped Children Act reauthorized in 1990 as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, IDEA requires all children and youth with disabilities to receive a free appropriate public education including children with visual impairment; and

WHEREAS, visual impairment means an impairment in vision that even with correction adversely affects a child's educational performance; and

WHEREAS, visual impairment includes blindness; and

WHEREAS, the 1992 statewide Child Count for Children and Youth with Visual Impairment identified 253 children and youth with visual impairment; and

WHEREAS, the College of Optometry at Northeastern State University and the Parkview School are interested in becoming involved in educating teachers who work with the visually impaired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature hereby encourages the State Board of Education and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to work together to address the shortage of special education teachers, specifically those working with visually impaired children and youth.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature further encourages the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the College of Optometry at Northeastern State University and the Parkview School to collaborate on a comprehensive training program for teachers who work with the visually impaired.

THAT in addition to braille instruction, the training program should also focus on vision rehabilitation for visually impaired children who have some residual vision, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, functional aspects of vision and learning, appropriate classroom adaptations and modifications required for placement in the least restrictive environment, and background in hereditary and acquired vision disabilities.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the State Superintendent for Public Instruction and the Chancellor for Higher Education.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 5th day of May, 1993.

of Speaker of the House
s Representative

Adopted by the Senate the 27th day of May, 1993.

Senate President of the