

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1102

By: Greenwood

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Sections 3-104.3 and 3-104.4, which relate to standards for accreditation; clarifying statutory references; providing exception for withdrawal or denial of accreditation for failure to meet certain requirements; deleting certain requirement for accreditation standards; 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 3-104.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-104.3 A. The Legislature, recognizing its obligation to the children of this state to ensure their opportunity to receive an excellent education, and recognizing its obligation to the taxpayers of this state to ensure that schooling is accomplished in an efficient manner, hereby establishes requirements for compliance with quality standards which the public schools and school districts, within the limits of resources now or subsequently available, must meet.

B. ~~State~~ Except as otherwise provided by subsection C of this section, state accreditation shall be withdrawn from or denied to schools or school districts that do not meet the requirements of Sections 2, 3, 6, 28, 29, 30, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49 of this act 3-104.4, 11-103, 11-103.6, 18-113.1, 18-113.2, 18-113.3, 18-114, 18-114.4, 18-114.5, 18-114.6, 18-114.7 and 5-141 of this title, and the State Board of Education shall take action as required by this act to ensure that students affected are enrolled in schools that are able to maintain state accreditation. Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the withdrawing or denial of accreditation for failure to meet requirements as elsewhere provided by law.

C. Any school which has had a student average score above the median of the national average score as measured by norm-referenced testing for three (3) consecutive years shall not be denied state accreditation or have accreditation withdrawn for failure to fully meet the accreditation requirements set forth in subsection B of this section or the standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 3-104.4 of this title.

SECTION 2. 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 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 of this act~~ 11-103.6 of this 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 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. 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.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

SECTION 4. 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.

45-1-5429

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