

SHORT TITLE: Educational Deregulation Act; changing name of certain act; deleting certain limitations for deregulation; adding certain limitations; effective date; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

SENATE BILL NO. 1163

By: Williams (Penny)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1995, Sections 3-124, 3-125, 3-126 and 3-127), which relate to the Educational Deregulation Act; modifying statutory reference; changing name of certain act; expanding entities eligible for deregulation; removing requirement for certain application; stating limitations for deregulation; requiring certain approval; providing exception; authorizing development of certain plan; deleting requirement for certain approval; deleting reference to certain statutory requirements; deleting requirement for certain public review and comment; providing certain limitation on number of districts and school sites that may be deregulated; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 3-124), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-124. ~~This act~~ Section 3-124 et seq. of this title shall be known and may be cited as the ~~"Educational Deregulation Act"~~ "Oklahoma Trailblazer Schools and School Districts Act".

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 3-125), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-125. A. The purpose of ~~this act~~ Section 3-124 et seq. of this title is to ensure that school districts and local schools have the necessary freedom to innovate and improve education systems in order to maximize student learning and performance.

Pursuant to this purpose, school districts, school sites or any consortium of schools or school districts shall be allowed to develop, ~~make application for~~ and implement educational improvement plans which would exempt the school district, ~~a~~ school site or ~~any program, grade level,~~ consortium of schools or school districts ~~or other group within the district~~ from ~~the~~ educational-related statutory regulations ~~set forth in subsection D of Section 3 of this act~~ and ~~the~~ State Board of Education rules which are not related to bilingual and special education programs, health and safety provisions, school finance, State Aid, grade weights, teacher salary and teacher retirement, the Oklahoma School Testing Program, Section 1210.505 et seq. of this title and the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program, Section 1210.531 et seq. of this title.

B. The plans submitted by school districts ~~and,~~ school sites or any consortium of schools or school districts shall be approved by the State Board of Education, providing such plans are not in violation of the provisions of subsection A of this section and satisfactorily meet all of the requirements set forth in subsections B and C of Section 3-126 of this title. Such plans should emphasize innovation, flexibility, and collaboration at the local school level, accountability at the state and local level, dissemination of results, and strict emphasis on improved student achievement.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 3-126), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-126. A. A school district, school site or consortium of schools or school districts may develop an educational improvement plan which includes exemption from ~~the~~ educational-related statutory requirements ~~set forth in subsection D of Section 3 of this act~~ and State Board of Education rules which are not

related to bilingual and special education programs, health and safety provisions, school finance, State Aid, grade weights, teacher salary and teacher retirement, the Oklahoma School Testing Program, Section 1210.505 et seq. of this title and the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program, Section 1210.531 et seq. of this title for the school district, a school site or any ~~program, grade level,~~ consortium of schools or school districts ~~or other group within the school district.~~ ~~The board of education of the school district shall, through adoption of a resolution, approve the plan prior to application being made to the State Board of Education.~~

B. The components of each educational improvement plan approved by the State Board of Education shall include:

1. A description of the educational benefits to be derived;
2. A definition of the standards of the plan;
3. Development of definitive work products, such as site improvement plans and progress reports;
4. Demonstration of collaboration by teachers, administrators, higher education representatives, students, parents/families, and the community;
5. Development and the use of an assessment mechanism to determine progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan;
6. Development of an in-service training plan to be provided to personnel at the site who will participate in the project;
7. Report on the results of the plan to the State Board of Education and provision of appropriate technical assistance to other school districts and the State Department of Education as required; and
8. Explanation of how the plan will affect other schools, programs or sites in the district.

C. Each educational improvement plan approved by the State Board of Education shall include, when appropriate, the following components:

1. An evaluation mechanism to evaluate the population served by the school district or site and the particular needs of the population;

2. An outline of how the scheduled school day and year enhances student learning;

3. A summary of how decision making would be shared;

4. An outline of the staffing pattern and how that pattern enhances or supports the goals and objectives to increase student performance of the plan;

5. An outline of how the curriculum design enhances or supports the goals and objectives of the plan;

6. An indication of how funds will be utilized to meet special needs of the students; and

7. An outline of how appropriate entities within and outside the school will be utilized.

D. Each educational improvement plan shall include a list of the specific educational-related statutory requirements and State Board of Education rules the school district is requesting an exemption from and why each exemption is necessary to success of the plan. The school district shall not be granted an exemption from federal educational-related requirements. ~~A school district may request an exemption only from the following educational-related statutory requirements:~~

~~1. The length of school year, number of days used for professional purposes, length of school day, length of school month and school taught on Saturday requirements set forth in Sections 1-109, 1-110, 1-111 and 1-112 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;~~

~~2. The textbook use requirements;~~

~~3. The class size limitations set forth in Sections 18-113.1, 18-113.2 and 18-113.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and~~

~~4. Any staff development and entry year requirements.~~

~~E. The State Board of Education may exempt the district from any State Board rule which is necessary to implement the plan, including any curricular requirements.~~

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 3-127), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-127. ~~A. Prior to the adoption of a resolution by the local board of education as required in subsection A of Section 3 of this act, the local board of education shall provide for a period of public review and comment on the proposed educational improvement plan and shall notify and allow comment from the district bargaining agent of the plan. If no bargaining agent exists for that district, the teachers directly effected shall be notified and allowed to make comments. All comments, recommendations and objections made by the bargaining agent and others to the local board of education shall be forwarded to the State Board of Education for review prior to approval of the plan.~~

~~B. A. Each educational improvement plan shall be approved by the State Board of Education before implementation. When a plan is submitted, the Board shall give public notice and invite comment on the plan. The Board shall schedule a public hearing for discussion and action on approval of any plan to which an objection has been made during the period of time specified.~~

~~C. B. Approval of a plan shall be for no longer than three (3) years. If a plan is approved, the school district, school site or~~

consortium of schools shall be required to submit an annual report and the Board shall provide for an annual assessment of the plan.

C. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year and every school year thereafter, the State Board of Education may approve no more than ten educational improvement plans submitted by school districts or any consortium of school districts and no more than twenty educational improvement plans submitted by school sites or any consortium of school sites.

D. The Board shall notify the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate of the approval of plans on a quarterly basis and shall provide the Speaker and the President Pro Tempore with copies of the annual reports and assessments.

E. If the Board determines through the annual assessment process that the school district is not complying with the requirements of ~~this act~~ Section 3-124 et seq. of this title or is not meeting the goals of the plan, it shall first provide notice to the district of its findings. If the school district does not come into compliance or take action to meet the goals of the plan, the Board shall withdraw approval and terminate the plan.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1996.

SECTION 6. 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.