

SHORT TITLE: Schools; deleting certain accreditations provision;
construing section; deleting certain training program component;
codification; effective date; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

SENATE BILL NO. 35

By: Rubottom

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3-104.4, and 6-158, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 388, O.S.L. 1992 (70 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 6-158), which relate to standards for accreditation and staff development programs and plans; deleting provision which required accreditation standards to equal or exceed certain standards; construing section of law; providing for short title; creating "Oklahoma School District Academic Autonomy Act"; construing title of law; deleting certain program component; providing for codification; 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 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shall be denied accreditation or have accreditation withdrawn prior to the 1997-98 school year solely for failure to fully implement the curricular standards.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 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~~ 250.1 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.

G. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring or authorizing the State Board of Education to require any school or district to use:

1. Any particular method, format, process or philosophical approach to curriculum planning, selection or implementation; or

2. Any particular classroom organization, instructional methodology or educational philosophy.

Programs which shall not be made mandatory include, without limitation, such programs as Outcomes Based Education, Effective Schools, Coalition of Essential Schools, Performance Based Education, Results Based Monitoring, mastery learning, competency

based, "holistic", "whole child", "individually guided", any program requiring affective, emotional or attitudinal training or testing or any program involving the development of curriculum based upon an analysis of or speculation upon the future conditions of society.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-104.10 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known as and may be cited as the "Oklahoma School District Academic Autonomy Act".

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-104.11 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Nothing in this title shall be construed as requiring or authorizing the State Board of Education to require any school or district to use:

1. Any particular method, format, process or philosophical approach to curriculum planning, selection or implementation; or
2. Any particular classroom organization, instructional methodology or educational philosophy.

Programs which shall not be made mandatory include, without limitation, such programs as Outcomes Based Education, Effective Schools, Coalition of Essential Schools, Performance Based Education, Results Based Monitoring, mastery learning, competency based, "holistic", "whole child", "individually guided", any program requiring affective, emotional or attitudinal training or testing or any program involving the development of curriculum based upon an analysis of or speculation upon the future conditions of society.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-158, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 388, O.S.L. 1992 (70 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 6-158), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-158. A. The local boards of education of this state shall establish staff development programs for the certified and

licensed teachers and administrators employed by said board. Such programs shall be adopted by each local school board based upon recommendations of a staff development committee appointed by the school board for said district. Such staff development committee shall include classroom teachers, administrators and parents of the local school district and shall consult with higher education instructors. A majority of the members of the staff development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The teacher members shall be selected from a list of names submitted by the bargaining agent where one exists. In the absence of a bargaining agent, the teachers will elect a list of names to be submitted to the local board of education. The programs adopted may include, but not be limited to:

1. In-service training programs; and
2. Higher education courses.

Each adopted program shall include a component of training in outreach to parents, and in multicultural education, ~~and in outcomes-based education, including the curricular standards and specific learner outcomes required in Sections 11-103.5 and 11-103.6 of this title,~~ which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis. Such programs shall be submitted for approval to the Board. Teachers and administrators who have completed staff development courses in their field of instruction or in courses related to obtaining additional professional qualifications and who complete such courses and receive a grade which is equivalent to at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale may be reimbursed by the school district for one-half (1/2) of the general enrollment fees incurred at any institution within The Oklahoma State System for Higher Education. If the teacher or administrator incurs costs pursuant to this section at a private institution of higher education, the person may be reimbursed by the school district for an amount equal to one-half

(1/2) of the general enrollment fees incurred at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of comparable type. No local school shall receive state funds for staff development until such time as said local board's program has been approved by the Board.

B. Any licensed and certified teacher in this state shall be required by the local school board to meet the staff development requirements established by said local school board, or established through the negotiation process. Failure of any teacher to meet local school board staff development requirements may be grounds for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the local school board. Such failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments affecting said teacher.

C. The staff development plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Education as provided in Section 3-104.2 et seq. of this title.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

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.

45-1-0099

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