

SHORT TITLE: Schools; requiring schools with certain average test scores to cooperate with the State Department of Education; effective date; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

SENATE BILL NO. 481

By: Long (Ed)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 1210.541, as last amended by Section 13, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 1993 (70 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 1210.541), which relates to low student achievement schools; requiring schools whose student average score falls below certain averages on norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests to cooperate with State Department of Education; 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 1210.541, as last amended by Section 13, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 1993 (70 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 1210.541), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.541 A. Except as otherwise provided, each school with a student average score in the lowest quartile of Oklahoma students and whose student average score falls below the national average score on any norm-referenced test or falls below the accepted average score, as determined by the State Board of Education on any criterion-referenced test administered pursuant to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act, Section 1210.505 et seq. of this title, shall cooperate with the State Department of Education to develop a program of action to address such low achievement and

shall implement such program by the beginning of the fall semester of the school year following the school year for which such low achievement is reported. For schools that test fewer than fifteen (15) pupils in any grade, the median or mean score may be used for purposes of this section.

B. Beginning with the 1993-94 school year, the State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to identify high challenge schools on the basis of indicators reported through the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program. Except as otherwise provided, each school with a student average score in the lowest quartile of Oklahoma students and whose student average score falls below the national average score for three (3) consecutive years on any test of the Oklahoma School Testing Program shall be declared a high challenge school by the State Board of Education. For schools that test fewer than fifteen (15) pupils in any grade, the median or mean score may be used for purposes of this section. The State Board of Education shall report to the Legislature by November 1 all districts in which at least one school has been declared a high challenge school. The annual report to the Legislature shall include test scores and other indicators for each school declared to be a high challenge school for the prior three (3) years and shall include intervention actions that have been taken and are planned by the district board of education and the State Board of Education to ensure the proper education of the students of each such school. Means of intervention which may be exercised by the State Board of Education may include but are not necessarily limited to: provision of guidance and assistance to the school and school district; special funding; reassignment of district personnel; transfer of students; operation of the school by personnel employed by the State Department of Education; mandatory annexation of all or part of the local school district; and placing operation of the school with an institution of higher education as a developmental research school

pursuant to the provisions of Sections ~~±~~ 1210.571 through ~~9~~ 1210.579 of this ~~act~~ title if the high challenge school is within a single-site district and is within ten (10) miles of a college of education within an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

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.

45-1-0280

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