

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1560

By: Hager of the House

and

Williams of the Senate

( schools - amending 70 O.S., Section 1210.541 - low-  
performing and high challenge schools - effective date -  
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 4, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 1210.541), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.541 A. Except as otherwise provided, ~~each~~:

1. 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 administered in grades three and seven pursuant to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act, Section 1210.505 et seq. of this title;  
and

2. Each school in which at least fifty percent (50%) of its first-time test takers did not achieve a satisfactory performance on at least two of the four content areas of reading, writing, mathematics and science on the criterion-referenced test administered in grade eleven 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~~ As applied to norm-referenced tests, 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. On or before November 1, 1996, the State Board of Education shall submit a proposal to the Legislature to expand the criteria by which the standard for low-performing and high challenge schools is determined. The criteria may include:~~

~~1. Performance on the norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests administered pursuant to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act, including delineation of the percentages of students tested and not tested;~~

~~2. High school graduation, student attendance and student dropout rates;~~

~~3. Teacher attendance rates;~~

~~4. Student suspensions and other disciplinary measures which can be quantified;~~

~~5. Secondary student participation in and completion of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program when applicable;~~

~~6. Student vocational-technical program participation and completion rates;~~

~~7. Student college entrance and preparatory test-taking rates;~~

~~8. Parental involvement rates; and~~

~~9. Any indicators reported through the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program.~~

~~Except as otherwise provided, until Beginning with the 1997-98 school year, 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 test of whose performance~~

meets the criteria set out in subsection A of this section on the  
Oklahoma School Testing Program shall be declared a low-performing  
school, if such standard is met for one (1) or two (2) consecutive  
years, and a high challenge school if such standard is met for three  
(3) consecutive years, 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. Beginning with  
the 1997-98 school year, additional criteria as described in this  
subsection shall constitute part of the standard by which a school  
is determined to be low-performing and high challenge.~~ 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 low-  
performing or high challenge school. The annual report to the  
Legislature shall include test scores and other indicators for each  
school declared to be a low-performing or a high challenge school  
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 1210.579 of this 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, 1997.

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of March, 1997.

Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

President of the Senate