

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2335

By: Hager of the House

and

Fisher of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 1, Chapter 350, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 24-101.3), which relates to out-of-school student suspensions; modifying the appeals process for short-term and long-term student suspensions; providing for administrative review of long-term suspensions; requiring certain orders to be forwarded to the administration of the school; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3-104, as last amended by Section 23, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 3-104), which relates to powers and duties of the State Board of Education; modifying and clarifying certain powers and duties; deleting obsolete provisions; restricting certain powers; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 350, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 24-101.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-101.3 A. Any student who is guilty of an act described in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section may be suspended out-of-school in accordance with the provisions of this section. Each school district board of education shall adopt a policy with procedures which provides for out-of-school suspension of students. The policy shall address the term of the out-of-school suspension, provide an appeals process as described in subsection B of this section, and ~~shall~~ provide that before a student is suspended out-of-school, the school or district administration shall consider and apply, if appropriate, alternative in-school placement options that are not to be considered suspension, such as placement in an alternative school setting, reassignment to another classroom, or in-school detention. The policy shall address education for students subject to the provisions of subsection D of this section and whether participation in extracurricular activities shall be permitted.

B. 1. Students suspended out-of-school for ten (10) days or less shall have the right to appeal the decision of the administration as provided in the policy required in subsection A of this section. The policy shall specify whether appeals for short-term suspensions as provided in this subsection shall be to either a local committee composed of district administrators or teachers or both, or to the board of education. Upon full investigation of the matter, the committee or board shall determine the guilt or innocence of the student and the reasonableness of the term of the out-of-school suspension. ~~The~~ If the policy requires appeals for short-term suspensions to a committee, the policy adopted by the board may, but is not required to, provide for appeal of the committee's decision to the board.

2. Students suspended out-of-school for more than ten (10) days and students suspended pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection C of this section may request a review of the suspension

with the administration of the district. If the administration does not withdraw the suspension, the student shall have the right to appeal the decision of the administration ~~directly~~ to the district board of education. Except as otherwise provided for in paragraph 2 of subsection C of this section, no out-of-school suspension shall extend beyond the current semester and the succeeding semester. Upon full investigation of the matter, the board shall determine the guilt or innocence of the student and the reasonableness of the term of the out-of-school suspension. The decision of the district board of education shall be final.

C. 1. Students who are guilty of any of the following acts may be suspended out-of-school by the administration of the school or district:

- a. violation of a school regulation,
- b. immorality,
- c. adjudication as a delinquent for an offense that is not a violent offense. For the purposes of this section, "violent offense" shall include those offenses listed as the exceptions to the term "nonviolent offense" as specified in Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes. "Violent offense" shall include the offense of assault with a dangerous weapon but shall not include the offense of assault,
- d. possession of an intoxicating beverage, low-point beer, as defined by Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, wireless telecommunication device, or missing or stolen property if the property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school during school activities, and
- e. possession of a dangerous weapon or a controlled dangerous substance, as defined in the Uniform

Controlled Dangerous Substances Act. Possession of a firearm shall result in out-of-school suspension as provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection.

2. Any student found in possession of a firearm while on any public school property or while in any school bus or other vehicle used by a public school for transportation of students or teachers shall be suspended out-of-school for a period of not less than one (1) year, to be determined by the district board of education pursuant to the provisions of this section. The term of the suspension may be modified by the district superintendent on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this paragraph the term "firearm" shall mean and include all weapons as defined by 18 U.S.C., Section 921.

D. At its discretion a school district may provide an education plan for students suspended out-of-school for five (5) or less days pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The following provisions shall apply to students who are suspended out-of-school for more than five (5) days and who are guilty of acts listed in subparagraphs a, b, c and d of paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section. Upon the out-of-school suspension, the parent or guardian of a student suspended out-of-school pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be responsible for the provision of a supervised, structured environment in which the parent or guardian shall place the student and bear responsibility for monitoring the student's educational progress until the student is readmitted into school. The school administration shall provide the student with an education plan designed for the eventual reintegration of the student into school which provides only for the core units in which the student is enrolled. A copy of the education plan shall also be provided to the student's parent or guardian. For the purposes of this section, the core units shall consist of the minimum English, mathematics, science, social studies and art units required by the

State Board of Education for grade completion in grades kindergarten through eight and for high school graduation in grades nine through twelve. The plan shall set out the procedure for education and shall address academic credit for work satisfactorily completed.

E. A student who has been suspended out-of-school from a public or private school in the State of Oklahoma or another state for a violent act or an act showing deliberate or reckless disregard for the health or safety of faculty or other students shall not be entitled to enroll in a public school of this state, and no public school shall be required to enroll the student, until the terms of the suspension have been met or the time of suspension has expired.

F. No public school of this state shall be required to provide education services in the regular school setting to any student who has been adjudicated as a delinquent for an offense defined in Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes as an exception to a nonviolent offense or convicted as an adult of an offense defined in Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes as an exception to a nonviolent offense or who has been removed from a public or private school in the State of Oklahoma or another state by administrative or judicial process for a violent act or an act showing deliberate or reckless disregard for the health or safety of faculty or other students until the school in which the student is subsequently enrolled determines that the student no longer poses a threat to self, other students or faculty. Until the school in which such student subsequently enrolls or re-enrolls determines that the student no longer poses a threat to self, other students or faculty, the school may provide education services through an alternative school setting, home-based instruction, or other appropriate setting. If a student is ordered to attend school by a court order, a copy of the order shall be forwarded to the administration of the school district in which the student resides within five (5) days of the ruling by the student's attorney. If

the student was not represented by counsel, a copy of the order shall be forwarded by the court clerk within the time specified.

G. Students suspended out-of-school who are on an individualized education plan pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, P.L. No. 101-476, or who are subject to the provisions of subsection F of this section and who are on an individualized education plan shall be provided the education and related services in accordance with the student's individualized education plan.

H. A student who has been suspended for a violent offense which is directed towards a classroom teacher shall not be allowed to return to that teacher's classroom without the approval of that teacher.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3-104, as last amended by Section 23, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 3-104), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-104. The control of the State Department of Education and the supervision of the public school system of ~~Oklahoma~~ this state shall be vested in the State Board of Education and, subject to limitations otherwise provided by law, the State Board of Education shall:

1. Establish and prescribe the duties of an executive officer who shall be the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and whose duties shall include the responsibility to give advice and make recommendations to the Board on all matters pertaining to the policies and administration of the State Department of Education and the public school system;

2. Adopt policies and make rules for the operation of the State Department of Education and the public school system of the state as specified in the Oklahoma School Code, Section 1-101 et seq. of this title;

3. Organize and have control of the administrative and supervisory agencies, divisions, personnel and their appointment and salaries and other operations necessary to carry out the powers, duties and functions of the Board and its executive officer;

4. Have authority to require the coordination of all divisions of the State Department of Education through its executive officer, delegate general supervision of all employees to its executive officer, require all recommendations to be presented through its executive officer, require its executive officer to be responsible for interpretation of the Board's policy, require any employee of the Board to present any specific matter directly to the Board;

5. Appoint, prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of a secretary, an attorney and all other personnel necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the State Board of Education. The secretary shall not be a member of the Board;

6. Submit to the Governor a departmental budget based upon major functions of the Department supported by detailed data on needs and proposed operations as partially determined by the budgetary needs of local school districts filed with the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal year. Appropriations therefor shall be made in lump-sum form for each major item in the budget as follows:

- a. State Aid to schools,
- b. the supervision of all other functions of general and special education including general control, free textbooks, school lunch, Indian education and all other functions of the Board and an amount sufficient to adequately staff and administer these services, and
- c. the Board shall determine the details by which the budget and the appropriations are administered.

Annually, the Board shall make preparations to consolidate all of the functions of the Department in

such a way that the budget can be based on two items, administration and aid to schools. A maximum amount for administration shall be designated as a part of the total appropriation;

7. On the first day of December preceding each regular session of the Legislature, prepare and deliver to the Governor and the Legislature a report for the year ending June 30 immediately preceding said regular session of the Legislature. Said report shall contain:

- a. detailed statistics and other information concerning enrollment, attendance, expenditures including State Aid, and other pertinent data for all public schools in this state,
- b. reports from each and every division, department, institution or other agency under the supervision of the Board,
- c. recommendations for the improvement of the public school system of the state, and
- d. a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the State Board of Education for the past year, ~~and~~
- ~~e. a statement of plans and recommendations for the management and improvement of public schools and such other information relating to the educational interests of the state as may be deemed necessary and desirable;~~

8. Provide for the formulation and adoption of curricula, courses of study and other instructional aids necessary for the adequate instruction of pupils in the public schools;

9. Have authority in matters pertaining to the licensure and certification of persons for instructional, supervisory and administrative positions and services in the public schools of the state subject to the provisions of Section 5 6-184 of this act

title, and shall formulate rules governing the issuance and revocation of certificates for superintendents of schools, principals, supervisors, librarians, clerical employees, school nurses, school bus drivers, visiting teachers, classroom teachers and for other personnel performing instructional, administrative and supervisory services, but not including members of boards of education and other employees who do not work directly with pupils, and may charge and collect reasonable fees for the issuance of such certificates. All funds collected by the State Department of Education for the issuance of certificates to instructional, supervisory and administrative personnel in the public schools of the state shall be deposited in the "Teachers' Certificate Fund" in the State Treasury and may be expended by the State Board of Education to finance the activities of the State Department of Education necessary to administer the program, for consultative services, publication costs, actual and necessary travel expenses as provided in the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, incurred by persons performing research work, and other expenses found necessary by the State Board of Education for the improvement of the preparation and certification of teachers in ~~Oklahoma~~ this state. Provided, any unobligated balance in the Teachers' Certificate Fund in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) on June 30 of any fiscal year shall be transferred to the General Revenue Fund of ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this state. Until July 1, 1997, the State Board of Education shall have authority for approval of teacher education programs. The State Board of Education shall also have authority for the administration of teacher residency and professional development, subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, Section 6-180 et seq. of this title;

10. Promulgate rules governing the classification, inspection, supervision and accrediting of all public nursery, kindergarten,

elementary and secondary schools and on-site educational services provided by public school districts or state-accredited private schools in partial hospitalization programs, day treatment programs, and day hospital programs as defined in this act for persons between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21) years of age in the state. However, no school shall be denied accreditation solely on the basis of average daily attendance.

~~Any school district which maintains an elementary school and faces the necessity of relocating its school facilities because of construction of a lake, either by state or federal authority, which will inundate the school facilities, shall be entitled to receive probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a period of five (5) years after the effective date of this act and any school district, otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to receive probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a period of two (2) consecutive years to attain the minimum average daily attendance.~~ The Head Start and public nurseries or kindergartens operated from Community Action Program funds shall not be subjected to the accrediting rules of the State Board of Education. Neither will the State Board of Education make rules affecting the operation of the public nurseries and kindergartens operated from federal funds secured through Community Action Programs even though they may be operating in the public schools of the state. However, any of the Head Start or public nurseries or kindergartens operated under federal regulations may make application for accrediting from the State Board of Education but will be accredited only if application for the approval of the programs is made. The status of no school district shall be changed which will reduce it to a lower classification until due notice has been given to the proper authorities thereof and an opportunity given to correct the conditions which otherwise would be the cause of such reduction.

Private and parochial schools may be accredited and classified in like manner as public schools or, if an accrediting association is approved by the State Board of Education, by procedures established by the State Board of Education to accept accreditation by such accrediting association, if application is made to the State Board of Education for such accrediting;

11. Be the legal agent of the State of Oklahoma to accept, in its discretion, the provisions of any Act of Congress appropriating or apportioning funds which are now, or may hereafter be, provided for use in connection with any phase of the system of public education in Oklahoma. It shall prescribe such rules as it finds necessary to provide for the proper distribution of such funds in accordance with the state and federal laws;

12. Be and is specifically hereby designated as the agency of this state to cooperate and deal with any officer, board or authority of the United States Government under any law of the United States which may require or recommend cooperation with any state board having charge of the administration of public schools unless otherwise provided by law;

13. Be and is hereby designated as the "State Educational Agency" referred to in Public Law 396 of the 79th Congress of the United States, which law states that said act may be cited as the "National School Lunch Act", 42 U.S.C.A., Section 1751 et seq., and said State Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to accept the terms and provisions of said act and to enter into such agreements, not in conflict with the Constitution of Oklahoma or the Constitution and Statutes of the United States, as may be necessary or appropriate to secure for the State of Oklahoma the benefits of the school lunch program established and referred to in said act;

14. Have authority to secure and administer the benefits of the National School Lunch Act, Public Law 396 of the 79th Congress of the United States, in the State of Oklahoma and is hereby authorized

to employ or appoint and fix the compensation of such additional officers or employees and to incur such expenses as may be necessary for the accomplishment of the above purpose, administer the distribution of any state funds appropriated by the Legislature required as federal matching to reimburse on children's meals;

15. Accept and provide for the administration of any land, money, buildings, gifts, donation or other things of value which may be offered or bequeathed to the schools under the supervision or control of said Board;

16. Have authority to require persons having administrative control of all school districts in Oklahoma to make such regular and special reports regarding the activities of the schools in said districts as the Board may deem needful for the proper exercise of its duties and functions as specified in the Oklahoma School Code, Section 1-101 et seq. of this title. Such authority shall include the right of the State Board of Education to withhold all state funds under its control, to withhold official recognition, including accrediting, until such required reports have been filed and accepted in the office of said Board and to revoke the certificates of persons failing or refusing to make such reports;

17. Have general supervision of the school lunch program. The State Board of Education may sponsor workshops for personnel and participants in the school lunch program and may develop, print and distribute free of charge or sell any materials, books and bulletins to be used in such school lunch programs. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Board, to be designated the School Lunch Workshop Revolving Fund. The fund shall consist of all fees derived from or on behalf of any participant in any such workshop sponsored by the State Board of Education, or from the sale of any materials, books and bulletins, and such funds shall be disbursed for expenses of such workshops and for developing, printing and distributing of such materials, books and bulletins

relating to the school lunch program. The fund shall be administered in accordance with the Revolving Fund Procedures Act, Section 155 et seq. of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

18. Prescribe all forms for school district and county officers to report to the State Board of Education where required. The State Board of Education shall also prescribe a list of appropriation accounts by which the funds of school districts shall be budgeted, accounted for and expended; and it shall be the duty of the State Auditor and Inspector in prescribing all budgeting, accounting and reporting forms for school funds to conform to such lists;

19. Provide for the establishment of a uniform system of pupil and personnel accounting, records and reports;

20. Have authority to provide for the health and safety of school children and school personnel while under the jurisdiction of school authorities;

21. Provide for the supervision of the transportation of pupils;

22. Have authority, upon request of the local school board, to act in behalf of the public schools of the state in the purchase of transportation equipment;

23. Have authority and is hereby required to perform all duties necessary to the administration of the public school system in Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School Code, Section 1-101 of this title. An educational function not specifically delegated to the State Department of Education or the State Board of Education is reserved and shall be performed by the local districts; and, in addition thereto, those duties not specifically mentioned herein if not delegated by law to any other agency or official;

24. Administer the State Public Common School Building Equalization Fund established by Section 32 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution. Any royalties, bonuses, rentals or other monies derived from oil and gas and all other mineral leases on

lands that have been or may be granted by the United States to the state for the use and benefit of the common schools, or lands that are or may be held by the Commissioners of the Land Office for the use and benefit of the common schools, the proceeds of the sale of easements, improvements and sand and gravel on any such lands, the proceeds of all property that shall fall to the state by escheat, penalties for unlawful holding of real estate by corporations, and capital gains on assets of the permanent school funds, shall be deposited in such State Public Common School Building Equalization Fund, which shall be used to aid school districts in acquiring buildings under rules prescribed by the State Board of Education, as the administering agency, subject to the limitations fixed by Section 32 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution. The State Board of Education shall prescribe rules for making grants of aid from, and for otherwise administering, such fund, and may employ and fix the duties and compensation of technicians, aides, clerks, stenographers, attorneys and other personnel deemed necessary to perform its duties; and the cost of administering such fund shall be paid from funds currently available for the operation of the State Department of Education. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Education, the Commissioners of the Land Office and all other public agencies, officers and employees to observe and comply with the provisions of this paragraph, in all respects; and they shall not be held liable for any amount, penalty or punishment for having done so, unless and until they are directed to do otherwise by a court of competent jurisdiction;

25. Recognize that the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections shall be the administrative authority for the schools which are maintained in the state reformatories and shall appoint the principals and teachers in such schools. Provided, that rules of the State Board of Education for the classification, inspection and accreditation of public schools shall be applicable to such

schools; and such schools shall comply with standards set by the State Board of Education;

26. Have authority to administer a revolving fund which is hereby created in the State Treasury, to be designated the Statistical Services Revolving Fund. The fund shall consist of all monies received from the various school districts of the state, the United States Government, and other sources for the purpose of furnishing or financing statistical services and for any other purpose as designated by the Legislature. The State Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with school districts, municipalities, the United States Government, foundations and other agencies or individuals for services, programs or research projects. The Statistical Services Revolving Fund shall be administered in accordance with the Revolving Fund Procedures Act, Section 155 et seq. of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

27. Have authority to review preliminary plans for new construction and major alteration of public school buildings where structural changes are proposed. No bids shall be let for the construction or major alteration of any public school building until preliminary plans and specifications for such construction or alteration have been submitted to and reviewed by the State Department of Education. The period of time during which such review is conducted by the State Department of Education shall not exceed thirty (30) days. The State Department of Education shall advise each local school district regarding said review of preliminary plans and specifications. Provided, nothing in this subsection shall be construed as repealing any ordinance or building code of any city, town or county.

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 24th day of February,
1998.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1998.

President of the Senate