STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1455 By: Staggs

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 1210.508, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 188, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 1210.508), which relates to criterian-referenced tests; requiring the results of criterian-referenced tests be returned to school districts prior to May 1 of each year; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 1210.508, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 188, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 1210.508), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508 A. Beginning with the 1994-95 school year and every school year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall cause a norm-referenced test to be administered to every student enrolled in grades three and seven of the public schools of this state. The test used shall be selected by the Board and shall measure specific skills represented by learner objectives. The student skills to be tested at the specified grade levels shall include reading, mathematics, language arts, communications, science

and the principles of citizenship in the United States and other countries through the study of the ideals, history and government of the United States and other countries of the world, and through the study of the principles of democracy as they apply in the lives of citizens. Because the purpose of such norm-referenced testing is to focus on the progress of students and to diagnose a student's strengths and weaknesses, the Board shall seek to ensure that data yielded from the test is utilized at the school district level to prescribe skill reinforcement and/or remediation by requiring school districts to develop and implement a specific program of improvement based on the test results.

B. Periodically the State Department of Education shall review existing norm-referenced tests commercially available and shall make recommendations to the State Board of Education which shall designate for statewide use those tests which evaluate the broadest range of identified, age-appropriate competencies.

C. The Board shall develop a series of criterion-referenced tests designed to indicate whether competencies Oklahoma public school students are expected to have attained in grades five, eight and twelve in mathematics, science, reading and writing of English, history, constitution and government of the United States, geography, and culture and the arts, and in grade twelve, Oklahoma history, as defined by the Board, have been mastered. The tests shall measure academic competencies and shall be designed and implemented in correlation with the implementation of the curricula standards adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of this title. The series of tests shall be field-tested and implemented by the following schedule:

Subject	Field-tested	Implemented
Mathematics	1993-94	1994-95
Science	1993-94	1994-95
Reading and Writing		

of English	1994-95	1995-96
History, Constitution and Government of the United States	1995-96	1996-97
Geography, and for grade 11, includes Oklahoma history	1996-97	1997-98
Culture and the Arts	1997-98	1998-99

D. The Board shall cause the tests in each subject to be field-tested during the year the field tests for each subject are scheduled. The Board shall cause the tests in each subject to be implemented by administering the fifth-grade competency test to fifth-grade students, by administering the eighth-grade competency test to eighth-grade students, and by administering the twelfth-grade competency test to eleventh-grade students in the public schools of this state during the spring semester of the year scheduled for implementation of tests in each subject. The Board shall administer the appropriate tests in each implemented subject to fifth-, eighth-, and eleventh-grade students every year after implementation. Students who do not perform satisfactorily on the implemented tests shall be provided opportunities for remediation and shall retake the tests at times established by the Board during subsequent years as follows: Fifth-grade tests shall be re-administered during the sixth and seventh grades; eighth-grade tests shall be re-administered during the ninth and tenth grades; and the twelfth-grade tests shall be re-administered during the twelfth grade.

E. Results of the criterion-referenced test series required in subsection C of this section shall be ~~included~~:

1. Returned to each school district prior to May 1 of each year; and

2. Included in the summary report of the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program published pursuant to Section 1210.531 of this title. The report shall include the number of students who perform satisfactorily on the tests, the number of students who do not perform satisfactorily, and the number of students who perform satisfactorily on subsequent administrations of the tests.

F. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for the development, field-testing, and validation of the criterion-referenced test series required in subsection C of this section. In the interest of economy the Board shall adapt criterion-referenced tests that have been developed by other states or are otherwise commercially available, or portions of such tests, to the extent that such tests are appropriate for use in the criterion-referenced test series to be administered to Oklahoma students.

G. The Board shall develop, administer, and incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing Program, other testing programs or procedures, including appropriate accommodations for the testing of handicapped students and students with learning disabilities, necessary to measure additional competencies of students which are not adequately measured by the tests required by this section.

SECTION 2. 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.

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