

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1560

By: Hager

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 the testing used for the school testing program; adding requirement that tenth grade be administered norm-referenced tests; amending 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), which relates to low-performing and high challenge schools; specifying certain type of test; deleting requirement for certain proposal from the State Department of Education; deleting certain criteria for identification of low-performing and high challenge schools; 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 1210.508, 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 and beginning with the 1997-98 school year and every school year thereafter to every student enrolled in grade ten 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 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. 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 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 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. 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 the 1997-98 school year,~~
each 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 of 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 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1997.

SECTION 4. 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.

46-1-5398

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