

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1684

By: Coleman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; stating legislative findings; requiring school districts to develop and implement elementary level reading programs; stating components of a reading program; requiring programs to be proven effective; stating criteria for determining an effective program; requiring certain annual reports; stating contents of report; 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 tests used for the school testing program; requiring reading assessments to be administered in certain grades; providing purpose for certain data obtained from test results; providing for codification; providing for noncodification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds that the ability to read with comprehension and skill is essential for success in school and for success in future life. As we enter into the twenty-first century,

the ability to read is critical to personal and family prosperity. It is the intent of the Legislature to improve student learning by focusing on reading literacy in our public schools.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-111 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Each school district in the state shall be required to develop and implement a reading program or programs for elementary level students. Each reading program shall be developed by the school district to meet the needs of the student population in that district. The reading program shall include as its primary and foundational components:

1. An organized, systematic, explicit skills program that includes phonological awareness (the ability to hear segments of sounds in spoken language and consciously manipulate them), phonics (letter to sound correspondence), and decoding skills to address the needs of the emergent reader;

2. A strong literature, language and comprehension program that includes a balance of oral and written language;

3. An ongoing individual evaluation and diagnosis that provides information about the teaching strategy and assessment that ensures accountability; and

4. An intensive, systematic early intervention program that provides individual tutoring for children at risk of reading failure.

B. The reading programs shall have been proven to be effective based upon valid research and testing. A reading program shall be identified as effective if:

1. The program has achieved documented results for students on valid and reliable assessments;

2. The results of the program have been replicated over a period of time;

3. The program has helped students meet classroom-based reading assessments and the state-level reading assessment mandated in Section 1210.508 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

4. Other appropriate criteria and considerations as established by the State Board of Education.

C. Each school district shall file an annual report with the State Board of Education outlining the components of the reading program or programs offered by the school district and the results of annual assessments.

SECTION 3. 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. Beginning with the 1997-98 school year and every school year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall cause a reading assessment to be administered to every student enrolled in grades one, two and three of the public schools of this state. The reading assessment shall be individually administered and measure reading skills. Because the purpose of such norm-referenced ~~testing tests~~ and reading assessments 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

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 4. NONCODIFICATION Section 1 of this act shall not be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1997.

SECTION 6. 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.

46-1-5375

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