

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1755

By: Ross

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; 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 high challenge schools; and clarifying language.

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 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 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~~ the 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 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 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.

46-1-5610

MCD