

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2045

By: Greenwood

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; requiring the State Board of Education to promulgate rules establishing a Teacher Merit Award Program; stating purpose of the Program; providing for allocation of awards to certain teachers; establishing the maximum amount of an award; establishing criteria for qualification of award; providing for inclusion of tests of certain students; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.810 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to establish the Teacher Merit Award Program. The purpose of the Program is to reward those teachers who are achieving success in the classroom as demonstrated by the success of the students they teach. The Program shall provide a financial reward to teachers who

demonstrate success and shall provide incentive to other teachers to strive for such success.

B. Beginning with the 1997-98 school year and each school year thereafter, and contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds designated for the Teacher Merit Award Program, the State Board of Education is authorized to allocate annually to each successful teacher an equal portion of the funds appropriated for the Program. In no instance shall the amount of the award exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each teacher.

C. For a teacher to qualify for an award, ninety-five percent (95%) of the students assigned to that teacher for the semester or school year must achieve by the end of the school year a score indicating a one year advance in grade level over the previous year test score and be passed on to the next grade level.

D. The test score of a student who transfers from or leaves the school in which the teacher is assigned during the course of the school year shall be included in the determination of eligibility of the teacher for the award if the student was assigned to the teacher at the time the student took the test.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1997.

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.

46-1-6403

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