

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 1015

By: Williams of the Senate

and

Roberts of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

(Schools - curriculum standards for high school
graduation - charter schools - effective date -

emergency)

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.6, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 320, O.S.L. 1999 (70 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 11-103.6), is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.6 A. The State Board of Education shall adopt curricular standards for instruction of students in the public schools of this state that are necessary to ensure there is attainment of desired levels of competencies in a variety of areas to include language, mathematics, science, social studies and communication. All students shall gain literacy at the elementary and secondary levels through a core curriculum. Students must develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, computing and critical thinking. They also must learn about cultures and environments - their own and those of others with whom they share the earth. Students, therefore, must study social studies, literature, languages, the arts, mathematics and science. Such curricula shall provide for the teaching of a hands-on career exploration program in cooperation with vocational-technical education schools. The core curriculum shall be designed to teach the competencies for which

students shall be tested as provided in Section 1210.508 of this title, and shall be designed to prepare all students for employment and/or post secondary education.

B. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the State Board of Education, students shall complete the following core curriculum units at the secondary level:

1. Language Arts - 4 units, to consist of 1 unit of grammar and composition, and 3 units from the following language arts electives - American Literature or English Literature (which are required to qualify for the diploma of honor as provided for in Section ~~11-103.2~~ 11-103.2c of this title), World Literature, Advanced English Courses, or Speech;

2. Mathematics - 3 units, to consist of 1 unit of Algebra I, and 2 units from the following mathematics electives - Algebra II or Geometry (which are required to qualify for the diploma of honor as provided for in Section ~~11-103.2~~ 11-103.2c of this title), Trigonometry, Math Analysis or Precalculus, Calculus, Statistics and/or Probability, Mathematics of Finance, Applied Mathematics I and II, or Computer Science. Provided, credit may be granted for Applied Mathematics I and II and Computer Science whether taught at the comprehensive high school or at a vocational-technical school;

3. Science - 3 units, to consist of 1 unit of Biology I, and 2 units from the following science electives - Chemistry I or Physics (which are required to qualify for the diploma of honor as provided for in Section ~~11-103.2~~ 11-103.2c of this title), Biology II, Chemistry II, Physical Science, Earth Science, Botany, Zoology, Physiology, Astronomy, or Applied Science (Biology/Chemistry, Physics, and Technology) or the 4th year of agriculture education when taken in the twelfth grade. Provided, credit may be granted for the Applied Science (Biology/Chemistry, Physics, and Technology)

whether taught at the comprehensive high school or at a vocational-technical school; and

4. Social Studies - 3 units, to consist of 1 unit of United States History, 1/2 to 1 unit of United States Government, 1/2 unit of Oklahoma History, and 1/2 to 1 unit from the following social studies electives - World History (which is required to qualify for the diploma of honor as provided for in Section ~~11-103.2~~ 11-103.2c of this title), Geography, Economics, Anthropology, Psychology, or Sociology.

C. For purposes of this section, a "unit" means a Carnegie Unit as defined by the North Central Association's Commission on Schools.

~~C.~~ D. A school district shall not be required to offer every course listed in subsection B of this section, but shall be required to offer enough course selection necessary to allow a student to meet the graduation requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

E. The State Board of Education shall adopt a plan to ensure that rigor is maintained in the content, teaching methodology, level of expectations for student achievement, and application of learning in all the courses specified in subsection B of this section. The State Board of Education shall allow as much option at the local district level as is possible without diminishing the rigor or undermining the intent of providing these courses. Local options may include, but shall not be limited to, comparable courses taken by concurrent enrollment or advanced placement, and comparable courses bearing different titles. Credit for the courses required in subsection B of this section shall be given when such courses are taken in the seventh or eighth grades if the teachers are certified to teach the courses at the intermediate or secondary level and the required course rigor is maintained. If a student enrolls in a concurrent course, the school district shall not be responsible for payment or tuition for that course, unless the school district does

not offer enough course selection during the secondary grade years of the student to allow the student to receive the courses needed to meet the graduation requirements of subsection B of this section.

If the school does not meet the necessary course selection, it shall be responsible for payment or tuition for the concurrent enrollment course. Credit for courses required in subsection B of this section may be satisfied by successful completion of a correspondence course with prior approval of the school district. School districts may determine Carnegie Unit equivalency for such correspondence courses.

~~D.~~ F. As a condition of receiving accreditation from the State Board of Education, all students in grades nine through twelve shall enroll in a minimum of six periods, or the equivalent in block scheduling, of rigorous academic and/or rigorous vocational courses each day, which may include arts, vocal and instrumental music, speech classes, and physical education classes.

~~E.~~ G. The State Board of Education shall provide an option for high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the amount of course credits earned.

~~F.~~ H. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt and approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of specified levels of competencies in each area of the core curriculum. Provided, however, that children who have individualized education plans pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), P.L. No. 101-476 may be exempted from the requirements of this subsection.

I. Children who have individualized education programs pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and who satisfy the graduation requirements through programming in the individualized education program for that student shall qualify for and be awarded a standard diploma.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 11, Chapter 320, O.S.L. 1999 (70 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 3-136), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-136. A. A charter school shall adopt a charter which will ensure compliance with the following:

1. A charter school shall comply with all federal regulations and state and local rules and statutes relating to health, safety, civil rights and insurance. By January 1, 2000, the State Department of Education shall prepare a list of relevant rules and statutes which a charter school must comply with as required by this paragraph and shall annually provide an update to the list;

2. A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. A sponsor may not authorize a charter school or program that is affiliated with a nonpublic sectarian school or religious institution;

3. The charter school shall provide a comprehensive program of instruction for at least a kindergarten program or any grade between grades one and twelve. Instruction may be provided to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21) years. A charter school may offer a curriculum which emphasizes a specific learning philosophy or style or certain subject areas such as mathematics, science, fine arts, performance arts, or foreign language. The charter of a charter school which offers grades 9 through 12 shall specifically address whether the charter school will comply with the graduation requirements established in Section 11-103.6 of this title. No charter school shall be chartered for the purpose of offering a curriculum for deaf or blind students that is the same or similar to the curriculum being provided by or for educating deaf or blind students that are being served by the Oklahoma School for the Blind or the Oklahoma School for the Deaf;

4. A charter school shall participate in the testing as required by the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act and the reporting of test results as is required of a school district. A charter school shall also provide any necessary data to the Office of Accountability;

5. Except as provided for in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act and its charter, a charter school shall be exempt from all statutes and rules relating to schools, boards of education, and school districts;

6. A charter school, to the extent possible, shall be subject to the same reporting requirements, financial audits, audit procedures, and audit requirements as a school district. The State Department of Education or State Auditor and Inspector may conduct financial, program, or compliance audits. A charter school shall use the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System to report financial transactions to the sponsoring school district;

7. A charter school shall comply with all federal and state laws relating to the education of children with disabilities in the same manner as a school district;

8. A charter school shall provide for a governing body for the school which shall be responsible for the policies and operational decisions of the charter school;

9. A charter school shall not be used as a method of generating revenue for students who are being home schooled and are not being educated at an organized charter school site;

10. A charter school may not charge tuition or fees;

11. A charter school shall provide instruction each year for at least the number of days required in Section 1-109 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

12. A charter school shall comply with the student suspension requirements provided for in Section 24-101.3 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

13. A charter school shall be considered a school district for purposes of tort liability under the Governmental Tort Claims Act;

14. Employees of a charter school may participate as members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma in accordance with applicable statutes and rules if otherwise allowed pursuant to law;

15. A charter school may participate in all health and related insurance programs available to the employees of the sponsor of the charter school;

16. A charter school shall comply with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act; and

17. The governing body of a charter school shall be subject to the same conflict of interest requirements as a member of a local school board.

B. The charter of a charter school shall include a description of the personnel policies, personnel qualifications, and method of school governance, and the specific role and duties of the sponsor of the charter school.

C. The charter of a charter school may be amended at the request of the governing body of the charter school and upon the approval of the sponsor.

D. A charter school may enter into contracts and sue and be sued.

E. The governing body of a charter school may not levy taxes or issue bonds.

F. The charter of a charter school shall include a provision specifying the method or methods to be employed for disposing of real and personal property acquired by the charter school upon expiration or termination of the charter or failure of the charter school to continue operations. Any real or personal property purchased with state or local funds shall be retained by the sponsoring school district.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2000.

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.

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