STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL 1545

By: Williamson of the Senate

and

Bryant and Coleman of the House

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; creating the Reading Accountability Act; stating legislative findings; stating certain goal; stating means to be used to reach certain goal; requiring certain reports; requiring State Department of Education to coordinate certain activities; prohibiting certain construction of act; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 1210.508F of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Reading Accountability Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508G of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Legislature finds that it is essential for children in the public schools to read early and well in elementary school. The Legislature further finds that clear and visible goals, assessments to determine the reading level at each elementary school, annual measurements of elementary school reading improvement, and accountability in each level of the educational system will result

in a significant increase in the number of children reading at or above grade level.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508H of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The reading goal for Oklahoma Public Schools is as follows: By May 1, 2006, and each year thereafter, ninety percent (90%) or more of all third-grade students will read at or above grade level by the end of their third-grade year.

B. To achieve the reading goal, each public elementary school shall:

1. Use classroom-based assessments to evaluate the reading level of kindergarten, first- and second-grade students pursuant to Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. Determine its baseline no later than May 1, 2001, which shall be the percentage of students reading at or above third-grade level as determined by Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

3. Set and achieve annual improvement goals necessary to progress from the baseline established in 2001 to the reading goal of ninety percent (90%) by May 1, 2006. The annual improvement goals shall be included in the district's reading sufficiency plan required in Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508I of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The levels of system accountability and reporting necessary to achieve the reading goal shall include the state, the professional associations, the principals, the teachers, the public schools, the school districts, and the parents.

B. The State Department of Education shall:

1. Report annually to the education committees of the Senate and House of Representatives on the statewide progress toward the reading goal and the number of third-grade students reading at each grade-level equivalent, from kindergarten to eighth grade;

2. Encourage schools to develop a repertoire of instructional approaches tailored to different student learning styles;

3. Provide information to public schools and school districts regarding organizational and instructional practices of representative schools that are demonstrating excellence or improvement; and

4. Require no specific instructional approach. The standard for evaluating an elementary school on a district's reading instruction will be whether it results in improvement toward meeting the reading goal.

C. Each public elementary school principal shall have the primary responsibility within the building for providing leadership in reaching the reading goal.

D. Each third-grade teacher shall report annually to the parent or guardian on the reading level of the student.

E. Each public elementary school shall report annually to its community the number and the percentage of third-grade students reading at or above third-grade level.

F. Public school districts shall provide encouragement and support for parents to read with their children at least twenty (20) minutes a day from birth through third grade.

G. Nothing in this act shall be construed to provide a cause of legal action for damages or specific performance.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2000.

47-2-3267 KDB 6/11/2015 8:23:46 PM