

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL 763

By: Williams of the Senate

and

Blackburn and Gilbert of
the House

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; recognizing the role of public school paraprofessionals; stating legislative intent that the State Board of Education adopt a program for public school paraprofessionals; defining certain term; 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 6-127A of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma Legislature recognizes that public school paraprofessionals play an important role in educating school children and in assisting teachers. The Legislature further recognizes the increasing role of public school paraprofessionals in the school system in light of teacher shortages. To achieve the goal of excellence for all persons who have an impact on student learning, it is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that public school paraprofessionals be afforded career opportunities and economic incentives through a career development program.

The State Board of Education shall adopt a program for the career development of public school paraprofessionals. The purpose of the program is to provide to public school paraprofessionals a

system of career development which is based upon education and training advancement to encourage excellence among public school paraprofessionals. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require public school paraprofessionals to participate in the career development program.

For the purposes of this section, a public school paraprofessional is an employee of a school district whose position is either instructional in nature, or who delivers other direct services to students and/or their parents. A public school paraprofessional serves in a position for which a teacher or another professional has the ultimate responsibility for the design, implementation, and evaluation of the individual educational programs or related services and student performance.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

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.

47-1-1475

KW

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