ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1263

By: Begley, Hutchison, Langmacher, Stites, Wells, Deutschendorf, Kirby, Beutler, Staggs and Boyd of the House

and

Hobson of the Senate

(schools - Technology in the Classroom Act - codification - effective date - 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 1210.901 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Technology in the Classroom Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.902 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Legislature recognizes that to be competitive, Oklahoma must have a lifelong learning environment in which the tools of technology support teaching and learning in all areas for all citizens. To establish a lifelong learning environment in which all students can be successful, the following must occur:

1. All teachers and faculty must receive adequate and appropriate training and support to maximize learning through the use of communications and other emerging technologies;

2. Communications and other technology resources must be available as an integral part of all learning environments; and

3. Learners must effectively use the tools of technology to access, develop, analyze, apply, evaluate and communicate information.

To achieve these goals common schools, vocational-technical schools and higher education institutions must cooperate and work together.

The Legislature further recognizes that the access to technology and the need for technology is not equal among educational entities. To provide a balance, it is the intent of the Legislature that any funds appropriated for technology by the state will be used to provide a minimum level of technology and related services to educational entities. It is further the intent of the Legislature that each educational entity invest local funding and efforts to achieve technology integration in their schools.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.903 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2005, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Commission on School Technology. The Commission shall be composed of nine (9) members as follows:

1. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee;

2. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education or designee;

3. The Chancellor of Higher Education or designee;

4. The Director of the telecommunications network known as OneNet or designee;

5. The Director of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority or designee;

6. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries or designee;

7. The Director of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or designee;

8. The Chair of the Oklahoma Senate Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education; and

9. The Chair of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education.

B. Nonlegislative members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

C. The Commission shall hold meetings as necessary at a place and time fixed by the Commission. The first meeting of the Commission shall be held on or before July 31, 1999, and shall be called by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. At the first meeting, the Commission shall select one member to serve as chair and another member to serve as vice-chair. At the first ensuing meeting in each fiscal year thereafter, the chair and vice-chair for the ensuing year shall be elected. Special meetings may be called by the chair or vice-chair of the Commission. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum of the Commission.

D. The State Department of Education, the Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education and the State Regents for Higher Education shall provide administrative support for the Commission.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.904 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Commission on School Technology shall prepare a requirements analysis and propose a state classroom technology plan

for improving student performance through the use of communications and other technologies. In developing the plan, the Commission shall:

1. Assess factors related to the current use of technology in the schools, including what is currently being used, how the current use of technology relates to the standard course of study, how the effectiveness of technology is being evaluated, how schools are paying for technology, and what training school employees have received in the use of technology;

2. Identify the instructional goals that can be met through the use of technology in the classroom. The goals may include teaching the standard course of study, reaching students with a broad range of abilities, and ensuring that all students have access to a complete curriculum regardless of the geographical location or the financial resources of the school;

3. Examine the types of technologies available to meet the identified instructional goals. The Commission shall consider the compatibility and usage of the statewide telecommunications network known as OneNet;

4. Develop a basic level of technology for every school in the state;

5. Consider staffing levels required to operate the technologies and options for maintaining the equipment;

6. Consider the types of staff development and training necessary to maximize the benefits of technology in the classroom and determine the appropriate ways to provide the necessary staff development; and

7. Develop a cost analysis of any plans and proposals that are developed.

B. The state classroom technology plan shall be a long-term state implementation plan for all educational entities. The state classroom plan shall be used as a guide when allocating funds from

the technology revolving fund created in Section 7 of this act and other sources to improve student performance in the schools through the use of technology. The purpose of the plan shall be to provide a cost-effective foundation of flexible and long-lasting technology planning to help promote substantial gains in student achievement.

C. Components of the state classroom technology plan shall include at least the following:

1. Common technical standards and uniform practices and procedures that provide statewide economies of scale in procurement, training, support, planning and operations;

2. Conceptual technical architecture that includes principles, standards for interoperability, and implementation strategies;

3. A quality assurance policy for all school technology projects, training programs, systems documentation, and maintenance plans;

4. Policies and procedures for the fair and competitive procurement of school technology that provide schools with a vendor-neutral operating environment in which different school technology hardware, software, and networks operate together easily and reliably to the extent feasible;

5. A comprehensive policy for inventory control;

6. Parameters for continuous, ongoing training for all personnel involved in the use of school technology;

7. Recommendations for preservice teacher training on the integration of teaching and school technology;

8. Proposals for leadership training on the use of school technology to improve instruction and for use as a management tool;

9. Development of expertise at the state and regional levels on school technology;

10. Flexibility to enable schools to meet their individual needs;

11. Flexibility to meet the needs of all students, allow support to students with a wide range of abilities, and ensure access to challenging curricula and instruction for children at risk;

12. Use of technology to support challenging state and local educational performance goals;

13. Effective and integrated use of technologies compatible with the standard course of study, the state assessment program, and related student data management;

14. The use of technologies as communications, instructional, and management tools and for problem-solving, exploration, and advanced skills;

15. Proposals for addressing equipment needs for vocational education, technical preparation, and science instruction; and

16. Specifications for minimum components of local school district technology plans.

D. The Commission shall annually develop any necessary modifications to the state classroom technology plan.

E. The Commission shall monitor and evaluate the development and implementation of the state and local classroom technology plans. The evaluation shall consider, in addition to other factors, the effects of technology on:

1. Student learning;

2. Workforce readiness of students;

3. Teacher productivity; and

4. The cost-effectiveness of the classroom.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.905 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Commission shall study the feasibility of developing a statewide system for leasing or lease-purchasing computer hardware, software and other technology equipment for educational entities.

The Commission shall explore the feasibility of establishing a mechanism whereby different forms of financing, including a line of credit, would be made available to educational entities to lease or lease-purchase technology equipment.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.906 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The board of education of each school district in the state shall develop a local school district classroom technology plan that meets the same requirements of and contains the same components as the state classroom technology plan as established in Section 4 of this act. The classroom technology plan shall contain a statement outlining the status of the school district's application for reimbursement for technology services submitted pursuant to subsection (h) of Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, commonly known as the E-rate discount, and whether the school district has received approval for such reimbursement. In developing a local school district classroom technology plan, the board of education is encouraged to coordinate its planning with other school districts, agencies of the state, and local governmental entities.

B. The State Department of Education shall assist in the development of, evaluate, and approve all local school district classroom technology plans for common schools.

C. The Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education shall assist in the development of, evaluate, and approve all local school district classroom technology plans for each area vocational-technical school district.

D. It is the intent of the Legislature that each institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education develop an institution classroom technology plan that meets the applicable requirements of and contains the applicable components of

the state classroom technology plan, as established in Section 4 of this act. The State Regents for Higher Education shall assist in the development of, evaluate, and approve all institution classroom technology plans.

E. After a local school district classroom technology plan is approved, all state funds allocated to the school district for any aspect of school technology shall be used to implement the local school district classroom technology plan.

F. The board of education of each common school district and each area vocational-technical school district in the state shall annually review, and if necessary develop modifications to, their local school classroom technology plan and submit it to the State Department of Education or the Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education, respectively, for evaluation and approval. It is the intent of the Legislature that each higher education institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall annually review, and if necessary develop modifications to, the institution classroom technology plan and submit it to the State Regents for Higher Education for evaluation and approval.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.907 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the State Board of Education to be designated the "Common Education Classroom Technology Fund". The Fund shall be a continuing fund not subject to fiscal year limitations and shall be under the control and management of the administrative authority of the State Board of Education. Expenditures from said Fund shall be made for allocation to local school districts for use as provided for in Section 8 of this act. Warrants for expenditures shall be drawn by the State Treasurer on claims signed by an authorized

employee or employees of the State Board of Education and approved by the Director of State Finance.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.908 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. After a local school district classroom technology plan is approved as provided for in Section 6 of this act, the State Board of Education may allocate the funds in the Common Education Classroom Technology Fund created in Section 7 of this act to school districts for implementation of the classroom technology plans. The funds shall be used for the purpose of providing training or purchasing, leasing or lease-purchasing hardware, software, or other technology equipment, providing for the cost of connectivity, or interactive video technology necessary to implement the classroom technology plans.

B. The allocation of monies from the Common Education Classroom Technology Fund created in Section 7 of this act shall be limited as follows:

1. No school district shall receive funds until the district has made application for reimbursement for technology services submitted pursuant to subsection (h) of Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, commonly known as the E-rate;

2. No school district shall receive funds for professional development training of certified personnel unless the training is through a course or program sponsored or approved by the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education. The training may be provided by the vocational-technical schools, higher education institutions, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, or private vendors;

3. No school district shall receive funds for computer hardware or software until certified personnel employed by the district have

received basic training on integrating technology into classroom instruction and learning. Upon completion of the training and verification by the State Department of Education, the district shall receive computer hardware and software or an equivalent amount of money to purchase or lease computer hardware and software for each teacher who has completed the training. The Commission on School Technology shall determine the maximum number of certified personnel per year from each school district based on the total number of faculty of that school district that may complete training and qualify to receive funds. The Commission may also establish criteria requiring a range of teachers from various grade levels and subject areas to be trained; and

4. The State Board of Education shall distribute the funding in such a manner that no one district receives a disproportionate amount of the funds and funds are distributed equally among different types and sizes of school districts.

C. 1. The State Board of Education is authorized to establish one or more contracts with vendors for the leasing, lease-purchasing or purchasing of hardware, software or other technology equipment or interactive video technology equipment to common schools in the state. The lease or lease-purchase arrangements may be for multiple years and shall be between the vendor and the school district. The Board, in cooperation with the Director of the Purchasing Division of the Department of Central Services, shall develop the technical specifications and other provisions of the contracts.

2. For purposes of this subsection, the Board shall be exempt from the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act. The Board shall select the contracts through a competitive bidding process. The Director of the Purchasing Division of the Department of Central Services shall provide assistance to the Board on developing bid specifications, the invitations to bid, and contract terms.

D. The monies deposited in the Common Education Classroom Technology Fund created in Section 7 of this act shall be used to provide for the cost of purchasing, leasing, or lease-purchasing interactive video technology equipment and hookups to advance technological innovations for secondary schools. The money shall be allocated to school districts for implementation of their local school district classroom technology plan.

E. The monies deposited in the Common Education Classroom Technology Fund created in Section 7 of this act shall be used to provide for the cost of purchasing, leasing, or lease-purchasing computer hardware, software or other technology equipment for common schools. The money shall be allocated to school districts as provided for in subsection B of this section.

F. The funds allocated to the State Board of Education for transfer to the Common Education Classroom Technology Fund shall be used to provide for the cost of training certified personnel on integrating technology into classroom instruction and learning as provided for in subsection B of this section. The money shall be allocated to school districts as provided in subsection B of this section.

G. Each school district shall budget and report all transactions involving funds received for technology using the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System. Technology costs shall be reported separately by type where applicable.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.909 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Effective for the 2000 fiscal year, the State Board of Education, the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education, and the State Regents for Higher Education shall annually prepare a joint funding plan for submission by September 1 of each year to the Office of State Finance and the Legislature which reflects the

estimated state costs for the fiscal year for the implementation of technology in the classroom. The plan shall provide for the utilization of all financial resources from federal, state, local, and private sources and shall provide for the coordination of those resources to fund any related services. The individual components of the plan, as they relate to individual agencies, shall be incorporated annually into each affected agency's budget request in accordance with the provisions of Section 41.29 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.910 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Legislature hereby encourages the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education to develop technician training classes or programs for school employees in the technical aspects of technology. The purpose of the classes or programs shall be to train school employees in installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of technology-related equipment so that school districts can have access to such trained persons and they can be available at school sites to perform such functions.

SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.911 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The board of education of any school district or any institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education is hereby authorized to utilize any statewide contract for technology equipment established by the Department of Central Services. The Department of Central Services shall consider the needs of school districts and institutions of higher education when developing the technical specifications and other provisions of statewide contracts for technology equipment.

SECTION 12. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 13. 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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 1999.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1999.

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President of the Senate