ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1647

By: Deutschendorf of the House

and

Williams of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; providing for grants for the development of Internet homework tutoring chatroom pilot programs; making grants contingent upon funds; stating guidelines for the pilot programs; providing for use of the funds; directing the State Board of Education to develop criteria for the pilot programs; authorizing the Board to promulgate rules; directing the Board to develop and implement a school testing assistance Internet web page; stating purpose of the web page; requiring the Board provide certain information; authorizing the Board to promulgate rules; 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 1210.556 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education shall solicit proposals for, and if funds are available, make grants to local boards of education for the establishment of pilot projects that would aid in the development of Internet homework tutoring chatrooms. The proposals for the Internet chatrooms shall create a mechanism that will allow students to contact and interact with teachers or other professionals when they are not at school, when the student needs assistance with courses or homework. Funding may cover the cost of equipment, materials, personnel, and any other start-up costs of developing the Internet chatrooms. Projects may involve entire districts, combinations of districts, combinations of schools, or elements of schools individually or in combination.

B. The State Board of Education shall determine pilot project criteria and establish a process for the consideration of proposals. Such proposals for pilot projects shall be considered on a statewide competitive basis. The Board is authorized to promulgate rules for the operation of such projects.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.557 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. By January 1, 2000, the State Board of Education shall, if funds are available, develop and implement a school testing assistance Internet web page. The purpose of the web page shall be to help students prepare for tests required under the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act and to provide remediation assistance to those students who do not perform satisfactorily on such tests. The web page shall contain information, materials, and example questions which may be used by teachers, students and parents to assist students in preparing for the required tests. The web page shall also identify the most difficult concepts incorporated in the tests and provide specific information, material and example questions which will assist students in those areas.

B. The Board shall notify schools and take steps to inform students and parents about the school testing assistance Internet web page. The Board is authorized to promulgate rules for the operation of the web page.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of May, 1999.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 11th day of May, 1999.

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President of the Senate