

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1650

By: Deutschendorf, Braddock,  
Gilbert and Collins of the  
House

and

Williams and Robinson of  
the Senate

An Act relating to schools; creating the Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Act; establishing the Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Pilot Program; stating purpose of the Pilot Program; defining a virtual internet school; providing for phasing-in of successive levels; appointing the State Department of Education as the coordinating agency; appointing the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority as the collaborative agency; directing the Department and OETA to acquire certain resources and equipment; providing for selection of participating school districts; providing for qualification of participating school districts; allowing the Virtual Internet School Pilot Program Coordinating Committee to choose additional schools; creating the Virtual Internet School Pilot Program Coordinating Committee; providing for membership; providing for selection of officers and meetings; providing for reimbursement; stating duties of the Committee; allowing the Committee to seek technical assistance and establish working groups; directing the Committee to make recommendations on employment; 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 1210.721 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 "Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.722 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma Legislature, recognizing the advancements of technology in education, hereby establishes, if funds are made available, the Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Pilot Program for the development of a virtual internet school in

the state. The purpose of the Pilot Program shall be to provide verifiable information on the advantages of web-based instructional programs. The Pilot Program shall also enable development and testing of procedures and standards so that implementation of a virtual internet school network statewide will progress smoothly.

For purposes of the Pilot Program, the virtual internet school shall consist of web-based instructional programs delivered via standard internet connections at any one of four levels. The Pilot Program shall begin implementation at level one and shall phase in each successive level as the features are developed and can be supported. Level one consists of traditional online instruction featuring textual and graphic data. Level two consists of level one features along with audio and chat support. Level three consists of level one and two features along with one-way video support. Level four consists of level one, two, and three features along with two-way video conferencing support.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.723 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The State Department of Education shall be the coordinating agency for the Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Pilot Program. The Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) shall be the collaborative agency responsible for the delivery of instructional content. The Department and OETA shall work with the school districts participating in the Pilot Program and acquire any resources and equipment necessary for the implementation and support of the Pilot Program. All resources and equipment acquired for the Pilot Program shall comply with recommendations and meet procedures and standards established by the Virtual Internet School Pilot Program Coordinating Committee created in Section 5 of this act. OETA shall be responsible for housing and maintenance of the equipment housed at and maintained by OETA. The Department and OETA shall not acquire any resources or equipment for the Pilot Program unless the Committee has recommended the acquisition.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.724 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Nine public school districts shall be selected to participate in the Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Pilot Program. Each of the nine school districts shall represent different areas of the state. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of Higher Education and the Cabinet Secretary for Science and Technology, upon agreement of at least two of the three shall select the school districts for participation in the Pilot Program.

B. 1. To qualify to be selected to participate in the VISION Pilot Program, school districts shall have installed or commit to install the following:

- a. a minimum of a single compressed video T-1 digital circuit that is connected to a OneNet DS3 hub site,

- b. a LAN/WAN connection that supports Fast Ethernet backbones or greater with 100Mbps service to the desktop,
- c. desktops capable of authenticating to a server operating system that natively supports a multiple processor Kernel, server clustering, and a web browser capable of supporting server side multicast technologies with 128 bit encryption. Servers as receivers of content from VISION distribution points shall support the selected server operating system and be capable of delivering and storing fifty (50) hours of media, and
- d. access servers and associated telecommunications circuits that allow private access to the school district's LAN/WAN.

2. Preference shall be given to qualified school districts that:

- a. are connected or will connect to one of the thirty-two OneNet DS3 upgrade sites,
- b. have deployed or committed to deploy edge routers that have the capability of servicing multiple T-1 digital circuit interfaces and support load balancing across the additional T-1 circuits,
- c. have or acquire edge routers that support 10BaseT, Fast Ethernet, Gigabit Ethernet, or ATM and the upcoming IP V.6 (Internet II) implementation, or
- d. have or commit to install 100Mbps dedicated services to the desktops by phase 2 of the implementation of the Pilot Program with desktops that have a minimum of PII 266 MHz equivalent or greater processor speeds if supporting desktops that are non-Intel architecture based and support CODEC software/hardware which is capable of receiving and delivering video as defined under the H.323 standards and be multiconferencing enabled.

C. The Committee may choose additional school districts to participate in the Pilot Program if the Committee determines the additional school districts would enhance the Pilot Program.

D. Selection of participating school districts shall be made by August 1, 1999.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.725 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Virtual Internet School Pilot Program Coordinating Committee. The Committee shall consist of nine (9) members who shall be selected by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Cabinet Secretary for Science and Technology, upon agreement of at least two of the three.

B. Each public school district selected to participate in the Pilot Program shall be represented by one member on the Committee. The members shall be proficient in technology tools or applications and shall be either administrators, teachers, curriculum specialists, or other individuals who are residents of the school district that member represents.

C. The following shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the Committee:

1. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee;

2. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority or a designee;

3. The Director of the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education or a designee;

4. The Chancellor of Higher Education or a designee;

5. The Secretary of Education or a designee;

6. The Secretary of Science and Technology or a designee; and

7. The Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services or a designee.

D. Appointment of members of the Committee shall be made by August 2, 1999.

E. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall call the first meeting of the Committee on or before August 15, 1999. The Committee shall select the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Committee from among their respective appointments at the first meeting. Subsequent meetings of the Committee shall be held at the call of the Chair or by a quorum of the members. The Committee shall meet at such times as is necessary.

F. Members of the Committee shall receive no compensation for serving on the Committee, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. State agency employees who are members of the Committee shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

2. All other Committee members shall be reimbursed by the State Board of Education for travel expenses incurred in performance of their duties on the Committee, in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.726 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Committee shall:

1. Establish standards and procedures for acquiring resources and equipment for the Pilot Program;

2. Make recommendations on the construction and deployment of a statewide server array with the necessary storage to support the storage and retrieval of curriculum content for a statewide virtual internet school. For purposes of this act, "server array" shall mean a centralist repository for streaming resources for the Pilot Program;

3. Make recommendations on additional hardware equipment and internet connectivity for each school district participating in the Pilot Program;

4. Develop and implement a highly secure and locally controlled web-based software system for schools which utilizes an Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) compliant object-oriented database management system which is capable of delivery of internet-based video in accordance with established standards. The management system will function to create an integrated system that provides relationships between data on student testing and assessment, accreditation, teacher certification, curriculum validation and alignment, financial reporting modules, and any further data deemed necessary. The software system will include a mechanism to deliver the integrated data in specialized content mediums, including, but not limited to text, graphics, audio, video, and multiple media integration with associated web-based content profiling capabilities;

5. Develop standards for distribution and procedures for deployment onto the networks of web-based curriculum content; and

6. Develop and implement site training for teachers and administrators on web-based instruction and management.

B. As necessary to carry out its charge, the Committee may seek technical assistance from specialists in applicable areas. The Committee may establish working groups composed of specialists and other individuals to assist the Committee in accomplishing its work.

C. The Committee shall make recommendations to the State Board of Education and OETA of persons to be employed by the Board or OETA to work on the Pilot Program project. No person shall be employed unless the Committee has made a recommendation concerning the position.

SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 8. 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 18th day of May, 1999.

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Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 19th day of May, 1999.

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President of the Senate