

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, February 4, 1999

# House Bill No. 1650

HOUSE BILL NO. 1650 -- By DEUTSCHENDORF 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 Oklahoma Educational Television Authority as the coordinating agency; directing the OETA to acquire certain resources and equipment; providing for selection of participating school districts; allowing the Committee to choose additional schools; creating the Virtual Internet School Pilot Program Coordinating Committee; providing for membership; stating duties of the Committee; providing for selection of officers and meetings; providing for reimbursement; 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 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 Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) shall be the coordinating agency for the Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Pilot Program. The 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.

**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. Six public school districts shall be selected to participate in the Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Pilot Program. The participating school districts shall be selected as follows:

1. Three public school districts, representing different areas of the state, shall be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

2. Three public school districts, representing different areas of the state, shall be selected by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

B. 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.

C. 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 oversee the Pilot Program. The Committee shall consist of the following members:

1. Three (3) members who represent the public school districts in the state which are selected to participate in the Pilot Program by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as provided for in Section 4 of this act who are teachers, curriculum specialists or technical staff and are proficient in technology tools or applications;

2. Three (3) members who represent the public school districts in the state which are selected to participate in the Pilot Program by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as provided for in Section 4 of this act who are teachers, curriculum specialists or technical staff and are proficient in technology tools or applications;

3. Three (3) members selected by the Governor who are teachers, curriculum specialists or individuals who are proficient in technology tools or applications; and

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

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

1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee;

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

3. The Secretary of Education or a designee.

C. 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 content artifacts 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 the hardware equipment and internet connectivity necessary for each school district participating in the Pilot Program;

4. Develop and implement a web-based software system for schools which utilizes an object-oriented data base management system which will function to create an integrated system that provides relationships between data on student testing and assessment, accreditation, teacher certification, student demographics, curriculum validation and alignment, and financial reporting modules. 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 and implement web-based curriculum content; and

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

D. Appointment of members of the Committee shall be made by August 1, 1999.

E. The Executive Director of the OETA shall call the first meeting of the Committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select the Chair of the Committee and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall select the Vice Chair of the Committee from among their respective appointments. Subsequent meetings of the Committee shall be held at the call of the Chair or any 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 OETA for travel expenses incurred in performance of their duties on the Committee, in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

G. 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.

H. The Committee shall make recommendations to OETA on persons to be employed by the OETA to work on the Pilot Program project.

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 7. 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.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, dated 2-3-99 -- DO PASS, As Coauthored.