

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1099

By: Sullivan (John)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 70-11-103.6, which relates to curriculum; deleting obsolete language; requiring certain units of certain courses for high school graduation; providing for approval of units for high school graduation; allowing for course substitutions; providing a procedure for substitution; allowing for units to be earned at the middle school level under certain conditions; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.6, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.6 A. By February 1, 1991, the State Board of Education shall adopt curricular standards for instruction of students in the public schools of this state that are to be implemented not later than the 1993-94 school year and that are necessary to ensure there is attainment of desired levels of competencies in a variety of areas to include language, social studies and communication. ~~Such curricular standards shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of subsections B and C of Section 11-103.5 of this title.~~ All students must initially gain literacy at the elementary and secondary levels through a core curriculum. Students must develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, computing and critical thinking. They also must learn about cultures and environments - their own and those of others with whom they share the earth. Students, therefore, must study social studies, literature, languages, the arts, mathematics and science. Such curricula shall provide for the teaching of a hands-on career

exploration program in cooperation with vocational-technical education schools. The core curriculum shall be designed to teach the competencies for which twelfth grade level students shall be tested as provided in Section 1210.508 of this title, and shall be designed to prepare all students for employment and/or post secondary education.

It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that Oklahoma history be included in the social studies core curriculum for purposes of this section.

B. Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year and each year thereafter, graduation requirements for students graduating from high school shall include four units of language arts, four units of science, four units of mathematics and four units of social studies.

Units required for high school graduation shall consist only of those core curriculum courses so approved by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education may approve the following course substitutions:

1. Any applied mathematics or applied laboratory science vocational-technical course which is accepted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education as an alternative high school curricular requirement for college admission; or

2. A score of satisfactory on the Oklahoma Performance Index on the eleventh grade criterion-referenced test in the core subject area, which shall be counted as one course for that subject area.

A student may apply for a course substitution by supplying the school counselor with sufficient documentation of the plan of study of the student which indicates how such course substitution is essential for achieving the goals of the student following high school graduation. The plan of study shall be approved and signed by the parent or guardian of the student. The school district board of education shall determine what documentation is required to be submitted and shall approve each course substitution.

High school graduation units may be earned in the seventh and eighth grades, subject to the approval requirements of this subsection. No course taken at the middle school level shall qualify as meeting the high school graduation requirements unless the course is taught by a teacher who has a standard secondary certificate, license or endorsement to teach the course subject area.

C. The State Board of Education shall provide an option for high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the amount of course credits earned.

~~C.~~ D. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt and approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of specified levels of competencies in each area of the core curriculum. Provided, however, that children who have individualized education plans pursuant to The Education For All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142) as amended may be exempted from the requirements of this subsection.

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.

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