

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1693

By: Ostrander

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating the "Partnership School Act"; stating purpose of act; providing definitions; providing for the organizational structure of partnership schools; stating design or scope of partnership school; allowing partnership schools to offer certain program emphasis; providing application procedures for partnership schools; stating contents of application; stating who shall receive partnership school applications; requiring certain board to include certain statement in application procedure; allowing only a local board of education to enter into certain agreement; describing certain contract; requiring certain plan to be included in Comprehensive Local Education Plan; authorizing local board of education to receive certain funds; providing for certain accountability; requiring partnership schools to gather certain data; requiring certain results; requiring the State Board of Education to perform certain duties; requiring the Department of Corrections to provide notice of felony conviction of a school employee; 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 3-130 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Partnership Schools Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-130.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. The purpose of the Partnership Schools Act is to:
1. Improve student learning;
 2. Increase learning opportunities for students;

3. Promote community and parental involvement in public schools;

4. Encourage the use of innovative teaching methods;

5. Encourage site-based decision making among teachers, other school employees, students, parents and the community to achieve greater educational effectiveness;

6. Provide additional academic choices for parents and students;

7. Provide opportunities for excellence in a variety of academic endeavors; and

8. Show student learning improvement through the employment of quality assessments.

B. The Partnership Schools Act shall apply only to partnership schools formed and operated under the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-130.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in this act:

1. "Partnership school" means a public school operating under a charter granted by a local board of education and managed by a governing body duly recognized by a local board of education in accordance with the terms of a partnership school management agreement;

2. "Governing board" means a board composed of any combination of teachers employed by the local board of education, parents, students, and other citizens who shall be responsible for the management and operation of the school, including but not limited to developing the curriculum, establishing discipline and safety policies, designing school schedules, selecting and acquiring textbooks and other learning resources, and determining administrative practices;

3. "Applicant" means that person or persons who present an application for a partnership school to a local board of education;

4. "Partnership school management agreement" means the contract between the local board of education and the applicant.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-130.3 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The organization and structure of a partnership school shall be left to the discretion of the governing board with approval of the local board of education.

B. A partnership school may:

1. Include an entire school;
2. Comprise one or more grades of a school; or
3. Serve a particular geographic area within a school district.

C. A partnership school may give emphasis to particular academic disciplines, instructional philosophies, or alternative education.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-130.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Application procedures for a partnership school shall be as follows:

1. The application for a partnership school shall be presented to the local board of education by the applicant no later than the board's regular or special December meetings in any given year;

2. The board shall approve or reject the application at the regular or special January meeting in the same school year;

3. If the district rejects the application, the board shall notify the applicant in writing of the decision and the reason(s) for rejection;

4. The applicant shall be allowed at least thirty (30) days from the receipt of rejection to revise and resubmit its proposal; and

5. The local board of education shall give written notice of any approved partnership school application to the State Board of Education within thirty (30) days of the date of approval.

B. The application shall include:

1. A mission statement for the proposed partnership school;

2. A description of the organizational structure and the governing board;

3. a financial plan for the first three (3) years of operation and description of the treasurer or other officers or persons who shall have primary responsibility for the finances of the partnership school. Such person shall have demonstrated experience in school finance or the equivalent thereof;

4. A statement that the partnership school shall operate in accordance with the Educational Deregulation Act;

5. The applications for deregulation by the local board of education to the State Board of Education, which list the regulations from which the deregulations are requested and indicate the educational improvement goals of the school;

6. A provision that the partnership school shall be allocated revenue based on the average per pupil revenue of the school district in which the partnership school is located;

7. A delineation of the relationship between the partnership school and the sponsoring local board of education with respect to the services and funding that will be provided by the school district and/or by the partnership school;

8. A statement that teachers working in the partnership school are employees of the local board of education, and thereby entitled to all rights and privileges normally accorded to other teachers in the school district; and

9. That students shall be served on a first-come, first-serve basis, with a provision for a lottery in the event that more students apply for admission than can be accepted.

C. The application for a partnership school shall be directed to the local board of education and shall specifically include:

1. Only deregulations that are allowed by Oklahoma law;

2. Established legal guidelines for any foundation for the partnership school; and

3. A statement that the school is nonsectarian and is also not a front for a private school becoming a public school.

D. The local school board's application procedure will have statements of prohibition from the following:

1. Any unencumbered debt to the local board of education as a result of the partnership school;

2. Charging tuition; such prohibition not to preclude additional monies derived from a school foundation or similar organization from being contributed to the partnership school; and

3. Discrimination on the basis of age, civil rights, rehabilitation, or disabilities.

E. Only a local board of education shall be authorized to enter into an agreement with a partnership school.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-130.5 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. When the local school board has approved the partnership school application, both the board and the applicant will sign a contract. This contract will be known as the partnership school management agreement. A partnership school management agreement may extend for a period of up to three (3) academic years, with annual review and approval by the local board of education.

B. The educational plan included in the application school shall be adopted as a part of the Comprehensive Local Education Plan for the local board of education.

C. If the applicant developer seeks federal grant money, the local school board will be the authorized public agency.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-130.6 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The partnership school shall be accountable to the taxpayers of the school district by showing student learning improvement through the employment of quality academic assessments.

B. The partnership school shall show base-line data on the academic achievement of students from the latest possible time available before they enrolled in the partnership school.

C. The partnership school shall show its level of improvement compared to nonpartnership schools. They may seek assistance from the Office of Accountability for these reporting methods.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-130.7 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The State Board of Education shall:

1. Develop an application process and a brief application for those schools and school districts seeking designation as a partnership school;

2. Provide assistance to any partnership school committee or school district requesting assistance in the implementation of the partnership schools program;

3. Report to the Legislature on partnership schools by January 15th, and the Legislature will take appropriate action to honor partnership schools; and

4. Honor the partnership school itself.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-101.49 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

To provide for improved student safety, upon the entry and filing of a judgment and sentence resulting from a felony conviction of an employee of a public school district, the Department of Corrections shall notify the clerk of the board of education for the school district of the felony conviction.

SECTION 10. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 11. 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.

47-1-5712 KB 6/12/15