

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 667

By: Wilcoxson of the Senate

and

Coleman of the House

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.6, which relates to curriculum standards; stating requirements of curriculum standards; directing the State Board of Education to adopt curricular standards for certain grades; providing implementation date; limiting core curriculum areas for certain grades; deleting certain test level language; 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~~ curricular standards required for accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and shall be sufficient to ensure that every student at every high school in this state shall have the opportunity to acquire all the competencies to matriculate at a comprehensive graduate institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher

Education without the necessity of enrolling at the university in secondary-level courses.

B. By February 1, 2000, the State Board of Education shall adopt curricular standards for instruction of students in grades one through three in the public schools of this state that are to be implemented not later than the 2000-2001 school year and are focused on the development of skills and the attainment of competencies in the areas of reading, mathematics, and spelling only. No other skills or competencies shall be required in grades one through three.

C. 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~~ postsecondary 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.~~ D. 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.~~ E. 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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