

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 784

By: Williams

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; requiring certain entities to ensure compliance with certain criteria; stating legislative intent that certain programs be established; 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 1210.804 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Those entities responsible for setting standards and determining progress within the State of Oklahoma's educational system shall ensure compliance with the following criteria:

1. Content and student achievement standards should be:
 - a. developed with considerable input from a variety of sources,
 - b. concise and understandable,
 - c. rigorous and challenging,
 - d. reasonable and attainable,
 - e. focused and organized by grade level or course, and
 - f. measurable;
2. Mandatory statewide testing should:
 - a. be reliable and valid for accountability purposes,
 - b. have a clear purpose,
 - c. be aligned directly to content standards,
 - d. be useful for school improvement, and
 - e. be operationally feasible;

3. Professional Development should be:
 - a. aligned with content standards and assessment,
 - b. focused on results in student achievement,
 - c. flexible and responsive to school needs,
 - d. accessible and convenient,
 - e. integrated into the day-to-day work in schools,
 - f. adequately funded, and
 - g. coordinated among local schools, higher education and state agencies;
4. Accountability reporting should:
 - a. focus on student achievement and educational results,
 - b. be useful for school improvement as part of a total accountability system,
 - c. be concise and understandable for a variety of audiences,
 - d. provide timely and accurate information,
 - e. show trends,
 - f. give school-, district-, and state-level information, and
 - g. present data by student groups within schools when appropriate;
5. Rewards, sanctions, and targeted assistance should be:
 - a. fair, consistent, and equitable,
 - b. based on clear rules,
 - c. balanced with one another,
 - d. based on both absolute standards and improvement,
 - e. supported with adequate and sustained financial resources,
 - f. focused on producing results, and
 - g. used to develop school staff ability to plan for and achieve continued improvements toward high standards.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.541A of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that an early intervention program for the benefit of school sites identified as low-performing be established. Such program shall provide technical assistance and resources before any sanctions are imposed on the school site.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.541B of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that a program be established providing rewards for those districts which make significant average test score increases whose average student scores the previous school year were in the lowest quartile as compared to all Oklahoma students.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 5. 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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