

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 800

By: Wilcoxson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Sections 3-104.4, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 188, O.S.L. 1995 and 11-103.6 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 3-104.4), which relate to adoption of curricular standards and standards of accreditation; deleting obsolete language; modifying conditions for accreditation; requiring students to enroll in minimum number of credits of academic and vocational course offerings; requiring compliance with certain accreditation standard by certain date; expanding list of certain competencies; defining terms; requiring certain curriculum for high school graduation; listing certain curricular options and course requirements; authorizing acceptance of certain equivalent courses; stating legislative intent; 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 3-104.4, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 188, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 3-104.4), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-104.4 A. ~~On or before February 1, 1991, the~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt standards for the accreditation of the public schools in this state ~~according to the requirements of this act, Section 1-101 et seq. of this title, to be effective as set forth in this act.~~ The accreditation standards shall incorporate the curricular standards established pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of this title ~~for implementation with the 1993-94 school year. No school shall be denied accreditation or have accreditation withdrawn prior to the 1997-98 school year solely for failure to fully implement the curricular standards.~~ The accreditation standards shall equal or exceed the accreditation standards for schools promulgated by the North Central Association of Colleges and

Schools to the extent that the standards are consistent with an academic results oriented approach to accreditation, excluding those standards which deal with affective behavior to the extent the adoption of the standards does not conflict with state statute. The accreditation adopted by the State Board of Education shall encompass accreditation for elementary schools, middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools. The accreditation standards shall be made available for public inspection at the offices of the State Department of Education.

B. Standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board of Education shall include standards relating to the provision of school counselors to the public school children of this state. The State Board of Education shall require each local school district to provide information regarding the number of counselors serving each school site, the duties of all such counselors including all administrative duties, the number of students served by each counselor, and information regarding the number of counselors employed per elementary school, middle school, junior high school, and high school.

C. Except as otherwise provided by subsection A of this section with regard to curricular standards, as a condition of receiving state accreditation ~~pursuant to this act~~:

1. High schools shall meet the accreditation standards as provided in subsections A and B of this section not later than June 30, 1995; and

2. Elementary, middle, and junior high schools shall meet the accreditation standards as provided in subsections A and B of this section not later than June 30, 1999.

Schools shall thereafter continue to meet the accreditation standards as a condition of continued accreditation. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing changes to the adopted standards by

the State Board of Education pursuant to the ~~Oklahoma~~ Administrative Procedures Act.

D. As a condition of receiving state accreditation:

1. All students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall enroll in at least six (6) credits of academic and/or vocational course work in any academic day, or the comparable credits for a block schedule;

2. High schools shall meet the accreditation standards provided in paragraph 1 of this subsection not later than June 30, 2001.

E. If one or more school sites fails to receive accreditation as required pursuant to this section by the dates set forth in ~~subsection~~ subsections C and D of this section or subsequently loses accreditation, the State Board of Education shall close the school and reassign the students to accredited schools within the district or shall annex the district to one or more other districts in which the students can be educated in accredited schools.

~~E.~~ F. State Board of Education accreditation regulations shall provide for warnings and for assistance to schools and school districts whenever there is reason to believe a school is in danger of losing its state accreditation.

~~F.~~ G. The State Board of Education shall provide assistance to districts in considering the possibility of meeting accreditation requirements through the use of nontraditional means of instruction. The State Board of Education shall also assist districts in forming cooperatives and making arrangements for the use of satellite instruction or other instructional technologies to the extent that use of such instructional means meets accreditation standards.

SECTION 2. 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~~ 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 mathematics, science, language and communication, and 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~~ shall master literacy through completion of a core curriculum at the elementary and secondary levels through a core curriculum level. Students must continue to develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, computing and critical thinking at the secondary level. ~~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 also 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~~ secondary 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.~~

B. Students scheduled to graduate during the 2000-2001 school year and before the 2001-2002 school year shall acquire the following high school core curriculum units selected from courses provided in Section E of this section prior to graduation:

1. Four units in English;
2. Four units in mathematics;
3. Three units in social studies; and
4. Two units in science.

C. Students scheduled to graduate during the 2001-2002 school year shall acquire the following high school core curriculum units prior to graduation:

1. Four units in English;
2. Four units in mathematics;
3. Four units in social studies; and
4. Three units in science.

D. Students scheduled to graduate during and after the 2002-2003 school year shall acquire the following high school core curriculum units prior to graduation:

1. Four units in English;
2. Four units in mathematics;
3. Four units in social studies; and
4. Four units in science.

For the purpose of this section, a "unit" means a Carnegie Unit as defined by the North Central Association's Commission on Schools.

E. Students shall select from the following courses for purposes of meeting requirements for high school graduation pursuant to paragraphs B through D of this act:

1. Required English courses:

- a. Grammar and Composition,
- b. American Literature, and
- c. English Literature;

2. Elective English courses:

- a. World Literature, or
- b. Advanced English courses approved by the State Board of Education;

3. Required Mathematics courses:

- a. Algebra I,
- b. Algebra II, and
- c. Geometry;

4. Elective Mathematics courses:

- a. Trigonometry,
- b. Math Analysis or Precalculus,
- c. Calculus, or

- d. Advanced Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, or Computer Science courses approved by the State Board of Education;

5. Required Laboratory Science courses:

- a. Biology, and
- b. Chemistry, or
- c. Physics;

6. Elective Laboratory Science courses:

- a. Earth Science, or
- b. Advanced Science, Applied Science, or Industrial Technology courses approved by the State Board of Education;

7. Required Social Studies courses:

- a. one-half unit course in Oklahoma History,
- b. one-half to one (1) unit course in United States Government,
- c. United States History, and
- d. World History; and

8. Elective Social Studies courses:

- a. One-half unit course in Economics,
- b. Geography, or
- c. Advanced History courses approved by the State Board of Education.

F. Provided, nothing in subsection E of this section shall prohibit acceptance of the following:

1. Courses offered under titles differing from those cited in subsection E of this section, but having generally comparable content;

2. Comparable courses taken by concurrent enrollment or advanced placement;

3. Credit for courses taken pursuant to subsection E of this section in grades seven (7) and eight (8), provided the teachers are

certified to teach the course at the same rigor as the high school level.

G. It is the intent of the Legislature that all students, in consultation with their parents and teachers, plan a program of study for their high school years which shall be either:

1. A college-preparatory curriculum; or
2. An academic-core curriculum plus a career concentration.

H. 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.~~ I. 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.~~ J. 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 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. 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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