

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

SENATE BILL 849

By: Crutchfield

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.7, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 355, O.S.L. 1999, which relates to early childhood education programs; modifying criteria for certification in early childhood education; 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 11-103.7, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 355, O.S.L. 1999 (70 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 11-103.7), is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.7 A. Each school district may offer to four-year-old children the opportunity to participate in an early childhood education program.

B. The State Board of Education shall promulgate standards for early childhood education programs for children who are at least four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the ensuing school year. The standards shall include both half-day programs consisting of not less than two and one-half (2 1/2) hours per school day, and full-day programs of six (6) hours. The standards for all early childhood education programs shall require a certified teacher, as specified in this section, to be present in the classroom for the length of the school day. Such program shall:

1. Be directed toward developmentally appropriate objectives for such children, rather than toward academic objectives suitable for older children;

2. Accommodate the needs of all children and families regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and

3. Require that any teacher employed by a public school to teach in such early childhood education program shall be certified in early childhood education.

C. The superintendent of any school district providing classroom space or other school facilities for a federally sponsored Head Start program that is planning to make a material change in the arrangement, shall give notice to the director of the Head Start program at least seven (7) days prior to a school board hearing on the matter.

D. A school district may offer such early childhood education program within the district, in cooperation with other districts, through the use of transfers as specified by law, or by contracting with a private or public provider of early childhood education programs, or by contracting for classroom space with a licensed public or private child care provider based upon selection criteria established by the district. If the program is provided through contract with a private or public provider other than a school district, the contract may only be continued if each teacher serving the school on and after January 1, 1993, is certified in early childhood education, except that all teachers, without such certification, hired by such provider prior to January 1, 1993, and serving in the school as an early childhood education teacher shall be required to obtain certification on or before the beginning of the 1996-97 school year. Any person who has ~~been employed a~~ Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and has at least five (5) years of experience as an early childhood educator with ~~the a~~ a Head Start Program, ~~has a child development associate degree (CDA) and has at least five (5) years of experience in such employment~~ or has at least five (5) years of experience as an early childhood educator with a public school of this state, working in an early childhood

education program for children four (4) years of age and younger,
shall be certified in early childhood education for purposes of
employment in the public schools of this state to teach in early
childhood education for children four (4) years of age and younger;
if such person is recertified in child development by the Council
for Early Childhood Professional Recognition within five (5) years
prior to the expiration of the person's early childhood certificate
that was issued by the State Board of Education, such person shall
be granted a renewal certificate in early childhood education by the
State Board of Education upon expiration of the early childhood
certificate. Provided, private or public providers shall meet such
other standards required by law and by the State Board of Education.

E. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
provide for the implementation of such program.

F. An early childhood education program may be offered jointly
by school districts that have formed interlocal cooperative
agreements pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title.

G. The term "pre-kindergarten" shall mean early childhood
education for purposes of this title.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2000.

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.

47-2-1944

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