

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2271

By: Coleman

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 10-105.3, which relates to parent education programs; clarifying funding priorities; stating legislative intent; establishing certain eligibility criteria; requiring the State Board of Education to develop certain fee schedule; requiring outcome-based performance evaluation; requiring report; providing for contents of evaluation; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 10-105.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 10-105.3 A. The State Board of Education shall develop and implement a program of parent education which provides practical information and guidance to parents regarding the development of language, cognition, social skills, and motor development of young children. ~~The program shall be phased in so that services will be available to parents of children under age three (3) in school districts identified by the Board as having the greatest numbers of children whose education is considered to be a high challenge. As funds are available, beginning with the 1992-93 school year, the Board shall expand the program so that services will be available to the school sites identified by the Board as having the greatest percentage of children qualifying for the free or reduced school lunch program. The Board shall expand the program each year if~~

~~funding is available to ensure that a parent education program is available to all school districts.~~

~~B. The program shall emphasize the importance of the parents of children as a child's first and most influential teachers. The parent education programs currently offered in other states should be examined as possible models for the Oklahoma program.~~

~~C. Beginning with the effective date of this act, for each of the next two fiscal years the In funding local programs, the Board shall give priority to school sites identified by the Board as having the greatest percentage of children qualifying for the free or reduced school lunch program.~~

B. It is the intent of the Legislature that parent education programs serve children who are at risk of academic failure and that such children be given priority for acceptance into the program over children who are not at risk of academic failure. Families whose income does not exceed one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) shall be entitled to receive parent education services free of charge. Families with income above the one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) FPL who do not have children who are considered to be at risk of academic failure shall be entitled to receive parent education services upon payment of a sliding scale fee which shall be set by the State Board of Education.

C. For purposes of this section, a child shall be considered at risk of academic failure if one of the following factors is present in the life of the child:

1. Low income;
2. Disability;
3. Premature birth;
4. Mother not a high school graduate;
5. Teenage parent or parents;
6. Language other than English;

7. Unmarried mother; or

8. Record of substance abuse of a parent of the child.

D. The State Board of Education shall may contract with an organization to provide for technical assistance for a field operations center to coordinate the Oklahoma Parents as Teachers Program. To be eligible for a technical assistance contract, an applicant must be an affiliate member of a national organization or association providing parent education training, must have at least two (2) years' experience in implementation of a Parents as Teachers Program, and must have at least one staff member with a degree above the baccalaureate level who has expertise in Child Development or Early Childhood Education. Technical assistance shall include assistance with training on program organization, management, implementation, and fundraising techniques for groups seeking to implement Parents as Teachers Programs and existing Parents as Teachers Programs throughout the state. The technical assistance provider shall compile ~~a~~ an annual report, utilizing data collected from the State Department of Education and the Child Service Demonstration Center, on the status of Parents as Teachers Programs in Oklahoma, including the locations and descriptions of the programs, the sources of funding for the programs, and pending applications for funding. The report shall be filed with the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education by ~~April 1, 1995~~ July 1 of each year.

E. The State Board of Education shall contract with an independent organization to conduct an outcome-based performance evaluation of the parent education program and make the results of such evaluation available to the Governor and the Legislature no later than December 31, 2003, and every two (2) years thereafter. The evaluation report shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of participant outcomes, including results of the kindergarten screening and third grade reading assessment for at-

risk children who were previously enrolled in the parent education program, versus a comparable group of at-risk children who were not enrolled in the parent education program.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2002.

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