

1 percentage of children qualifying for the free or reduced school
2 lunch program. The Board shall expand the program each year if
3 funding is available to ensure that a parent education program is
4 available to all school districts. In evaluating new funding
5 requests, priority consideration shall be given to programs
6 demonstrating the greatest need combined with the greatest
7 commitment of community, foundation, and corporate support.

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

12 C. ~~Beginning with the effective date of this act, for each of~~
13 ~~the next two fiscal years the~~ The State Board of Education shall
14 contract with an organization to provide for technical assistance
15 for a field operations center to coordinate the Oklahoma Parents as
16 Teachers Program. To be eligible for a technical assistance
17 contract, an applicant must be an affiliate member of a national
18 organization or association providing parent education training,
19 must have at least two (2) years' experience in implementation of a
20 Parents as Teachers Program, and must have at least one staff member
21 with a degree above the baccalaureate level who has expertise in
22 Child Development or Early Childhood Education. Technical
23 assistance shall include assistance with training on program

1 organization, management, implementation, and fundraising techniques
2 for groups seeking to implement Parents as Teachers Programs and
3 existing Parents as Teachers Programs throughout the state. The
4 technical assistance provider shall compile a report, utilizing data
5 collected from the State Department of Education and the Child
6 Service Demonstration Center, on the status of Parents as Teachers
7 Programs in Oklahoma, including the locations and descriptions of
8 the programs, the sources of funding for the programs, and pending
9 applications for funding. The report shall be filed on or before
10 April 1 of each year with the Governor, the Legislature, and the
11 State Board of Education ~~by April 1, 1995.~~

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

13 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
14 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-21-01 - DO
18 PASS, As Coauthored.