

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 35, O.S.L. 1999 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 11-103.1), which relates to teaching American Sign Language in public school; deleting certain teacher requirement; creating the Oklahoma Education Opportunity for the Deaf Act; stating legislative findings; providing definitions; requiring school districts to consider certain options for deaf and hard-of-hearing children; providing certain considerations; requiring school districts to notify parents of certain educational options; requiring notification of all parents; prohibiting denial of certain opportunities for deaf or hard-of-hearing for certain reasons; providing for instruction in certain communications modes or language; allowing for parental choice; limiting requirement for additional personnel; establishing minimum requirements for classroom interpreters; allowing interpreters who meet certain provisional requirements; requiring provisional interpreters to upgrade skills within certain time; providing that interpreters with certain certificates meet standards; directing the State Board of Education to adopt a standard performance assessment; providing contents of assessment; providing for certification of interpreters completing assessment; requiring certain continuing education; directing the Board to set continuing education requirements; directing the Board to adopt certain assessment; listing goals of the EIPA assessment; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.