

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

HOUSE BILL HB2847

By: Hastings

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; directing the State Board of Education to establish a reading pilot program for low-performing and high challenge schools; requiring participating schools to implement a mentoring program in reading; providing for areas of concentration; requiring a certain percentage of students to be served by the pilot program; giving priority to certain mentoring programs; requiring the use of technology in the mentoring programs for certain purposes; directing the Board to contract with a comprehensive university to study the pilot program; requiring a report by a certain date; authorizing the Board to promulgate rules; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.543 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the State Board of Education shall establish a reading pilot program for schools declared to be a low-performing or high challenge school pursuant to Section 1210.541 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Schools participating in the pilot program shall implement a proven, established, structured mentoring program in reading, concentrating in the subject areas in which the students failed to achieve satisfactory performance levels as established by the Oklahoma Performance Index. The reading pilot program shall serve a minimum of twenty-seven percent (27%) of the students at each school site who are reading below grade level or who are identified as at-risk

for reading difficulty. When selecting a mentoring program in reading, the Board shall give priority to structured mentoring programs in reading that have been recognized by the Education Commission of the States and the United States Department of Justice as promoting educational practices which accelerate student reading achievement and promote a safe school environment. The selected mentoring program in reading shall utilize technology to align the learning resources of the school with state standards, generate individualized student prescriptions, and monitor the performance of the students.

B. The State Board of Education shall contract with a comprehensive university in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to analyze and test the results and to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the pilot program. The Board shall submit a report of the findings prepared by the university to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate by December 1, 2003.

C. The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules for the operation of the pilot program.

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

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.

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