

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL 756

By: Williams of the Senate

and

Roberts, McIntyre, Adkins,
McCarter and Liotta of the
House

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Act; providing short title; creating the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board; stating purposes; providing for membership, terms, vacancies, officers, staffing and travel reimbursement; requiring compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and Oklahoma Open Records Act; providing for duties and responsibilities of the Board; requiring certain reports; authorizing creation of certain foundation; authorizing creation of certain corporation; creating the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project; authorizing awards of certain grants for certain purposes; requiring the State Department of Education to identify and advise certain schools of grant availability; providing criteria and procedures for awarding of certain grants; providing priority for certain grantees; providing for funding and required funding matches; prohibiting use of certain grant funds for certain purposes; providing requirements for technical assistance grantee; stating duties of technical assistance grantee; stating criteria for award of grant for certain leadership academy; creating the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project Revolving Fund; limiting use of certain fund; creating the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Awards Program; providing for presentation of awards and recognition of students; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 1210.801 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.802 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Legislature finds that it is imperative that this state provide leadership and comprehensive assistance to bring about systemic change in under-performing schools to improve student achievement and give students in these schools an opportunity to be successful.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.803 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until July 1, 2010, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board. The Board shall promote student achievement in Oklahoma's under-performing schools by providing oversight of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project and guiding implementation and planning of a school improvement initiative to improve student achievement in under-performing schools.

B. The Board shall be composed of nineteen (19) members, or their designees, as follows:

1. Four representatives of the private sector to be appointed by the Governor;

2. One school district superintendent to be appointed by the Governor;

3. One classroom teacher who is certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to be appointed by the Governor;

4. One representative of an Oklahoma foundation that focuses on educational excellence to be appointed by the Governor;

5. One school principal who has demonstrated leadership in improving performance in under-performing schools to be appointed by the Governor;

6. Two members of the Senate, one to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore and one by the minority leader;

7. Two members of the House of Representatives, one to be appointed by the Speaker and one by the minority leader;

8. One member of the Senate or the public to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore;

9. One member of the House of Representatives or the public to be appointed by the Speaker;

10. State Superintendent of Public Instruction;

11. Chancellor of Higher Education;

12. Chair of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

13. Secretary of Education, or other designee of the Governor;

and

14. Oklahoma Teacher of the Year during the teacher's reign.

C. The chair and vice chair of the Board shall be designated by the Governor. The chair shall call the first meeting of the Board by December 1, 2004. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Any vacancy on the Board shall be filled in the manner provided for the original appointment.

D. Appointed members shall serve terms of four (4) years; provided, of those members initially appointed to the Board, one-half of the members appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority leaders shall serve two-year terms as designated by the appointing authorities.

E. The Governor's office, State Department of Education, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and Commission for Teacher Preparation shall provide initial staff support for the Board.

F. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for serving on the Board, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Board shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. Nonlegislative members of the Board shall be reimbursed by their respective agencies for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

3. Members of the Board who are not officers or employees of the state shall be reimbursed by their appointing agency.

G. The proceedings of all meetings of the Board shall comply with the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.804 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board is authorized to:

1. Establish guidelines for the disbursement of funds received from any public or private source or otherwise made available to the Board for the purpose of supporting the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project and initiatives that are consistent with the goals of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Act and such other expenditures as may be necessary in the performance of its duties;

2. Establish other guidelines as necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board; and

3. Receive funds from any public or private source.

B. The responsibilities of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board shall be to:

1. Administer the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project created in Section 6 of this act;

2. Encourage public and private programs, services, and initiatives to provide coordinated, focused approaches to improve student achievement in under-performing schools;

3. Maximize the extent to which private sector funding is leveraged and federal, state, and local funds are coordinated with private funds;

4. Recognize and promote research-based practices that result in improved student achievement through the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project; and

5. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than December 1 of each year stating the status and results of the efforts of the Board to improve student achievement in under-performing schools and a detailed summary of grants funded in whole or in part by the Board.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.805 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby authorized the establishment of a not-for-profit school improvement foundation to raise funds and to assist in the implementation of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Act and the achievement of the goals of this act.

B. Costs to underwrite implementation of the responsibilities of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board may be borne from revenues of the foundation.

C. The foundation created pursuant to this section may receive funds from any public or private source to carry out the purposes of this act, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants from any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or of

this state for any purpose consistent with the provisions of this act.

D. Upon proper incorporation, the foundation shall secure tax-exempt status under the appropriate provision of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c).

E. Any member of the foundation who may have a financial interest in an action under consideration by the foundation shall abstain from voting on such matter.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.806 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project to provide comprehensive assistance, based on rigorous, research-based strategies, to under-performing school sites. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board is authorized to award one or more competitive grants for the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project to public school districts for school sites in the lowest quartile on the Academic Performance Index as identified by the State Department of Education pursuant to subsection C of this section, one competitive grant for technical assistance, and one competitive grant for a school leadership academy.

B. Grants for school site improvement shall be in amounts of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) or more unless the Board finds that the applicant has other resources and can meet the criteria set forth in subsection D of this section with a reduced grant.

C. Contingent upon the availability of funding, no later than October 1, 2004, and October 1 of each subsequent year, the State Department of Education shall advise the principals of the school sites that are in the lowest quartile on the Academic Performance Index pursuant to Section 3-150 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes

as calculated by the State Department of Education for all students by school site and the districts in which the school sites are located of the availability of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project grants. The technical assistance provider shall provide assistance to the districts that wish to apply for a grant in assessing needs and designing programs. The programs selected for funding shall be implemented no later than the beginning of the next school year following award of the grant.

D. In order to be eligible for an Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project grant, a proposal shall include:

1. A commitment by the principal and eighty percent (80%) of the faculty at the school site for which the grant is requested, the district superintendent, and the district board of education to implement all aspects of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project at the school site;

2. A plan for improvement based on the academic needs of the students, including:

- a. a facilitated self-assessment process to assist in establishing short- and long-term goals,
- b. a data-driven decision-making process based on evaluation of past student performance, disaggregated test scores, classroom performance, and other pertinent data, and
- c. development, monitoring, and revision of the plan as needed;

3. Formation of a leadership team responsible for ensuring that program components are implemented and monitored;

4. A focus on teaching content to all students and using content-specific pedagogy;

5. Peer coaching provided by teachers who have received certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and other master teachers identified by the district;

6. Results-driven and standards-based professional development for teachers;

7. Mentoring for teachers who have fewer than three (3) years of experience; and

8. Professional development for school leaders directed toward enhancing instructional leadership including the commitment of the principal and other members of the leadership team to participate in the leadership academy established pursuant to this act.

E. Grant recipients shall have priority, if recommended by the technical assistance provider as provided for in subsection G of this section, and if funds are available, for annual renewal of the grants in amounts and on conditions as provided in this section. If a district receives grants for three (3) consecutive school years and if the evaluation by the technical assistance provider certifies the program meets the criteria set forth in subsection D of this section as well as additional criteria set by the Board and documents improved student achievement, the district shall be awarded grant funding for the fourth and fifth years in the amounts as follows:

1. Funding for the fourth consecutive school year shall be in an amount of fifty percent (50%) of the average amount of grants awarded for the site pursuant to this section for the first three (3) consecutive school years;

2. Funding for the fifth consecutive school year shall be in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the average amount of grants awarded to the site pursuant to this section for the first three (3) consecutive school years; and

3. All grants for the fourth and fifth school years as provided in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection shall be matched with local funds or in-kind contributions. School sites that received grants continuously for five (5) consecutive school years shall not thereafter be eligible for grants pursuant to this section.

F. School districts that receive Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project grants shall not use the grant funds to supplant budgeted district expenditures for the school site or to reduce funding that would otherwise be budgeted or expended for the site.

G. 1. From funds available for the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project, the Board shall award to the lowest and best bidder through a competitive bid process a grant for technical assistance for the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project. The technical assistance provider shall show command of relevant research and demonstrate capability for providing technical assistance, including operation of clearinghouse functions, coordinating with agencies, evaluating programs for effectiveness, making program cost assessments, promoting replication of successful programs, and assisting program providers in attaining national validation of their programs and qualifying for federal funding. The technical assistance provider shall have priority, if its operations are deemed satisfactory by the Board and if funds are available, for annual renewal of the grant.

2. The duties of the technical assistance provider shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a. providing technical assistance to the Board in the development of the policies and procedures, including the criteria for grants and information required of applicants,
- b. providing technical assistance to districts that have stated intent to apply for grants pursuant to this act,
- c. providing technical assistance to grant recipients to enhance probability of success of grant-funded programs,

- d. providing initial and ongoing training of principals and faculty who are working in an Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project school,
- e. coordinating regular meetings of principals of all schools having an Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project grant, and
- f. providing an in-depth program analysis and evaluation of grant-funded programs to the Board no later than November 1 following the end of the school year in which one or more grant-funded programs were implemented.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.807 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board shall award one grant for an Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Academy through a competitive bid process to the lowest and best bidder. The academy shall be designed to enhance the capacity of school leadership teams to improve curriculum, instruction and student achievement in under-performing schools. The academy design shall include curriculum modules that prepare leadership teams to apply research-based knowledge and processes and to apply data-driven school improvement techniques, a delivery format that incorporates workshop sessions interspersed with school-based practice with coaching, school-based research to determine the academy's effect on student achievement, and team learning.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.808 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project Revolving Fund. The fund shall be a continuing

fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies appropriated or transferred to the fund by the Legislature. The Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project Revolving Fund shall be used only to fund the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project activities and support the Project as provided in this act. Expenditures shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.809 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project Awards Program. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the State Board of Education shall present an award in the amount of not less than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to any Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project school site that, upon completion of its three-year grant cycle, meets or exceeds the site's student performance goals established by the Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Board. The State Board of Education shall recognize students at school sites that received Oklahoma Partnership for School Improvement Project grants who have made significant individual achievement gains.

SECTION 10. This act shall become effective September 1, 2004.

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