

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 HOUSE BILL 3293

By: Collins

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
8 Section 3-104.4, which relates to standards for
9 accreditation; deleting obsolete language; directing
10 the State Board of Education to adopt accreditation
11 standards which require licensed social workers in
12 public schools; requiring a certain ratio of licensed
13 social workers to students; directing school
14 districts to provide certain type of counseling
15 services; requiring school districts to report
16 certain information to the Board; requiring school
17 districts to meet certain standards by a certain
18 date; clarifying statutory language; amending 70 O.S.
19 2001, Section 6-185, as amended by Section 1, Chapter
20 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 6-185),
21 which relates to competencies and methods to be
22 incorporated into teacher preparation system; adding
23 mental health training; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
24 Section 24-100.1, which relates to prevention of
25 violence services; modifying provisions to reflect
26 certain requirements; requiring mental health issues
27 training for certain school employees; authorizing
28 certain school employees to make mental health
29 referrals for students; providing for liability;
30 providing an effective date; and declaring an
31 emergency.

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

33 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-104.4, is
34 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 3-104.4 A. ~~On or before February 1, 1991, the~~ The
2 State Board of Education shall adopt standards for the accreditation
3 of the public schools in this state according to the requirements of
4 this act, to be effective as set forth in this act. The
5 accreditation standards shall incorporate the curricular standards
6 established pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of this title ~~for~~
7 ~~implementation with the 1993-94 school year. No school shall be~~
8 ~~denied accreditation or have accreditation withdrawn prior to the~~
9 ~~1997-98 school year solely for failure to fully implement the~~
10 ~~curricular standards.~~ The accreditation standards shall equal or
11 exceed the accreditation standards for schools promulgated by the
12 North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to the extent that
13 the standards are consistent with an academic results oriented
14 approach to accreditation, excluding those standards which deal with
15 affective behavior to the extent the adoption of the standards does
16 not conflict with state statute. The accreditation standards
17 adopted by the State Board shall encompass accreditation for
18 elementary schools, middle schools, junior high schools, and high
19 schools. The accreditation standards shall be made available for
20 public inspection at the offices of the State Department of
21 Education.

22 B. Standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board of
23 Education shall include standards relating to the provision of
24 school counselors to the public school children of this state. The

1 State Board of Education shall require each local school district to
2 provide information regarding the number of counselors serving each
3 school site, the duties of all such counselors including all
4 administrative duties, the number of students served by each
5 counselor, and information regarding the number of counselors
6 employed per elementary school, middle school, junior high school
7 and high school.

8 C. The standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board
9 of Education shall include standards relating to the provision of
10 licensed social workers to the public school students in this state.
11 The standards for the number of licensed social workers employed for
12 public school students shall require a ratio of one licensed social
13 worker serving not more than four hundred students. The standards
14 shall also require school districts to provide an organized program
15 of counseling services to students that focuses on mental health and
16 substance abuse counseling and ensures that each student, either in
17 a group or individual setting, receives counseling. The Board shall
18 require each school district to provide information regarding the
19 number of licensed social workers serving each school site, the
20 duties of each licensed social worker including all administrative
21 duties, the number of students served by each licensed social
22 worker, and information regarding the number of licensed social
23 workers employed per elementary school, middle school, junior high
24 school and high school. Public schools shall be required to meet

1 the accreditation standards adopted by the Board pursuant to this
2 subsection not later than June 30, 2009.

3 D. Except as otherwise provided by ~~subsection~~ subsections A and
4 C of this section with regard to curricular standards, as a
5 condition of receiving state accreditation pursuant to this act:

6 1. High schools shall meet the accreditation standards not
7 later than June 30, 1995; and

8 2. Elementary, middle and junior high schools shall meet the
9 accreditation standards not later than June 30, 1999.

10 Schools shall thereafter continue to meet the accreditation
11 standards as a condition of continued accreditation. Nothing herein
12 shall be construed as preventing changes to the adopted standards by
13 the State Board of Education pursuant to the Oklahoma Administrative
14 Procedures Act.

15 ~~D.~~ E. If one or more school sites fails to receive
16 accreditation as required pursuant to this section by the dates set
17 forth in subsection ~~C~~ D of this section or subsequently loses
18 accreditation, the State Board of Education shall close the school
19 and reassign the students to accredited schools within the district
20 or shall annex the district to one or more other districts in which
21 the students can be educated in accredited schools.

22 ~~E.—State Board~~ F. The rules for accreditation regulations
23 adopted by the State Board of Education shall provide for warnings
24 and for assistance to schools and school districts whenever there is

1 reason to believe a school is in danger of losing its state
2 accreditation.

3 ~~F.~~ G. The State Board of Education shall provide assistance to
4 districts in considering the possibility of meeting accreditation
5 requirements through the use of nontraditional means of instruction.
6 The ~~State~~ Board shall also assist districts in forming cooperatives
7 and making arrangements for the use of satellite instruction or
8 other instructional technologies to the extent that use of such
9 instructional means meets accreditation standards.

10 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-185, as
11 amended by Section 1, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007,
12 Section 6-185), is amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-185. A. The following competencies and methods shall
14 be incorporated into the programs approved by the Oklahoma
15 Commission for Teacher Preparation for the competency-based teacher
16 preparation system provided for the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation
17 Act:

18 1. The teacher preparation system shall include, but not be
19 limited to, the following competencies:

- 20 a. excellence in the arts and sciences,
- 21 b. an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter to be
22 taught,
- 23 c. the ability to identify and cultivate talent and
24 potential in students,

- d. an understanding of child and human development,
- e. teaching skills developed through a variety of learning experiences,
- f. the ability to interact effectively with all students,
- g. skills necessary for working with parents, guardians and custodians of students in the education process,
- h. skills necessary to involve the community in education,
- i. skills to foster teamwork within and among schools,
- j. for administrators, skills necessary to be an effective leader of a school or school district, and
- k. skills in effective classroom management and student discipline;

2. The preservice program shall include the following methods to achieve the competencies listed in paragraph 1 of this subsection:

- a. require teacher candidates to study arts and sciences at the undergraduate level,
- b. require secondary and elementary/secondary teacher candidates to have undergraduate majors, or their equivalents, in a subject area, and require teacher candidates in early childhood, elementary, and special education to have subject area concentrations which allow qualification as a generalist,

- c. require teacher candidates to study the individuality of students, the capacity of students to learn and the process of learning,
- d. integrate curriculum from other disciplines with the education curriculum,
- e. require teacher candidates to have training experiences and personal contact with parents, guardians or custodians of school-age children,
- f. require teacher candidates to have community involvement experience,
- g. structure courses so as to require teamwork activities, and
- h. require teacher candidates to study, in existing coursework, substance abuse symptoms identification and prevention, mental health illness symptoms identification and issues, classroom management skills, and classroom safety and discipline techniques;

3. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not require more than a four-year program of one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours to complete a teacher education degree.

Provided, any program approved by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1995, which requires more hours may continue to require such hours. Any program approved prior to July 1, 1995, which

1 requires more than one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours for
2 a teacher education degree shall implement requirements for this
3 program without additional hours.

4 B. It is the intent of the Legislature that institutions of
5 higher education which offer teacher education programs hold such
6 programs accountable for meeting the licensure and certification
7 competencies approved by the State Board of Education. It is the
8 intent of the Legislature that the teacher education programs
9 incorporate a curriculum to achieve the competency-based system and
10 include integration of the teacher preparation curricula with the
11 arts and sciences departments curricula. Each institution of higher
12 education which seeks accreditation or approval for its teacher
13 education program shall develop an institution plan which follows
14 the State Board of Education competencies for licensure and
15 certification. In developing such institution plans, the higher
16 education institution shall establish a process which seeks
17 information and input from teacher preparation faculty, faculty from
18 arts and sciences and other programs and disciplines which are
19 appropriate, students within the teacher education program,
20 teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or custodians of
21 students and business and community leaders. Each institution shall
22 hold an annual public forum subject to the provisions of the
23 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act regarding the content of the institution
24 plan at which public comment on either the institution's teacher

1 preparation plan or program is solicited. The institution's plan
2 shall be accessible to any interested party under the Oklahoma Open
3 Records Act. No institution of higher education's teacher education
4 program shall be approved by the Commission unless the institution
5 plan has been approved by that institution's governing board.
6 Initial institution plans shall be filed with the Oklahoma
7 Commission for Teacher Preparation by January 1, 1997, and as
8 required by the Commission thereafter. The Oklahoma State Regents
9 for Higher Education may facilitate the development of institution
10 plans to assist institutions of higher education.

11 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-100.1, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 24-100.1 A. It is the intent of the Legislature to
14 encourage and assist the public schools of this state to address
15 school violence through an emphasis on prevention. Preventative
16 services shall be encouraged through greater access to mental health
17 counseling and social services for students. In ~~order to make~~
18 ~~licensed professional counselors and~~ addition to meeting the
19 requirements for licensed social workers as set forth in Section 3-
20 104.4 of this title and to make such services more available and
21 accessible on site, school districts may:

22 1. Contract with and allocate space for nonprofit agencies or
23 other community-based service providers for the appropriate
24 personnel and services; and

1 2. Seek any available funding, including the use of Medicaid
2 funds for students who are Medicaid eligible through targeted case
3 management, and any other funding which may be available for related
4 services; and

5 ~~3. Encourage the State Board of Education to allow for the use
6 of licensed professional counselors and licensed social workers in
7 addition to academic counselors.~~

8 B. School administrators, teachers, and other school employees
9 shall be trained to recognize, accommodate, and assist students with
10 mental health issues.

11 C. School administrators, teachers, and other school employees
12 may make referrals or assist in referring students to licensed
13 social workers for mental health screening or treatment. A school
14 administrator, teacher, or other school employee shall incur no
15 liability as a result of injury arising from any acts or omissions
16 of the school administrator, teacher, or other school employee in
17 referring or failing to refer a student as provided for in this
18 subsection.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

20 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
21 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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