ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 497

By: Paddack, Garrison and Ballenger of the Senate

and

McNiel and Cannaday of the House

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.508, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2006 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508), which relates to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act; providing for reporting of certain endorsement on student transcripts; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.508, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2006 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508 A. 1. The State Board of Education shall develop and administer a series of criterion-referenced tests designed to indicate whether the state academic content standards, as defined by the State Board of Education in the Priority Academic Student Skills Curriculum, which Oklahoma public school students are expected to have attained have been achieved. The Board may develop and administer any criterion-referenced test in any subject not required by federal law, contingent upon the availability of funding. Students who do not perform satisfactorily on tests shall be remediated, subject to the availability of funding.

2. Contingent upon the availability of state and federal funds, the Board, in accordance with federal law, shall administer criterion-referenced tests for grades three and four in:

a. reading, and

b. mathematics.

3. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Board shall administer criterion-referenced tests for grade five in:

a. reading,

b. mathematics,

c. science,

d. social studies, which shall consist of the history, Constitution and government of the United States, and geography, and

e. writing of English.

4. Contingent upon the availability of state and federal funds, the Board, in accordance with federal law, shall administer criterion-referenced tests for grades six and seven in:

a. reading, and

b. mathematics.

In addition, the Board shall administer a criterion-referenced test in geography in grade seven.

5. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Board shall administer criterion-referenced tests for grade eight in:

a. reading,

b. mathematics,

c. science,

d. social studies, which shall consist of the history, Constitution, and government of the United States, and

e. writing of English.

The Board shall administer the tests for grade eight in reading and mathematics online with raw score test results reported immediately and complete results reported in less than two (2) weeks beginning in the 2007-08 school year.

6. Each student who completes the instruction for English II, English III, United States History, Biology I, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II at the secondary level shall complete an end-of-instruction test, when implemented, to measure for attainment in the appropriate state academic content standards in order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma. All students shall take the tests prior to graduation, unless otherwise exempt by law. The State Board of Education shall administer the criterion-referenced tests. The Board shall develop and field test the end-of-instruction tests in English III, Geometry, and Algebra II during the 2006-07 school year, implement the tests during the 2007-08 school year, and administer them each year thereafter. The Board shall administer the multiple choice portion of the end-of-instruction tests online with raw score test results reported immediately and complete results reported in less than two (2) weeks beginning in the 2008-09 school year.

The end-of-instruction tests shall serve the purpose of the criterion-referenced tests as provided in paragraph 1 of this subsection. The English II and English III end-of-instruction tests shall include a writing component. Students who do not score at least at the satisfactory level shall be afforded the opportunity to retake each test up to three (3) times each calendar year until at least achieving at the satisfactory level. In order to provide an indication of the levels of competency attained by the student in a permanent record for potential future employers and institutions of higher education, for students who enter the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-08 school year, school districts shall report the highest achieved state test performance level on the end-of-instruction tests on the student’s high school transcript. Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade in the 2008-09

school year, school districts shall report the student's performance levels of satisfactory and above on the end-of-instruction tests and any business and industry-recognized endorsements attained on the student's high school transcript. Any student at the middle school level who completes the instruction in a secondary course specified in this paragraph shall be administered the appropriate end-of-instruction test.

7. a. Each school district shall administer to each student in the school district in grades three through eight an assessment designed to assess the student in the fine arts area in which the student has received instruction.

b. Each school district shall prepare an annual report for approval by the State Board of Education outlining the fine arts assessment strategies used by the district, when the assessments were administered, how many students were assessed during the previous year, and the results of the assessments.

B. 1. All criterion-referenced tests required by this section shall measure academic competencies in correlation with the state academic content standards adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of this title and known as the Priority Academic Student Skills Curriculum. The State Board of Education shall evaluate the academic content standards to ensure the competencies reflect high standards, are specific, well-defined, measurable, challenging, and will prepare elementary students for next-grade-level course work and secondary students for postsecondary studies at institutions of higher education or technology center schools without the need for remediation in core curriculum areas. All state academic content standards shall reflect the benchmarks of the American Diploma Project and the goal of improving the state average ACT score.

2. The State Department of Education shall annually evaluate the results of the criterion-referenced tests. The State Board of Education shall ensure that test results are reported to districts in a manner that yields detailed, diagnostic information for the purpose of guiding instruction and student remediation. As improvements are made to the criterion-referenced tests required by this section, the Board shall seek to increase the depth of

knowledge assessed for each subject. The State Board of Education shall seek to ensure that data yielded from the tests required in this section are utilized at the school district level to prescribe reinforcement and/or remediation by requiring school districts to develop and implement a specific program of improvement based on the test results.

3. The State Board of Education shall review, realign, and recalibrate, as necessary, the tests in reading and mathematics in third through eighth grade and the end-of-instruction tests. The Board shall determine the cut scores for the performance levels on the end-of-instruction tests developed pursuant to paragraph 6 of subsection A of this section, which shall be phased in over a multi-year period. The Board shall conduct an ongoing review to compare the end-of-instruction test content and performance descriptors with those of other states. Upon receipt of the review, the Board may adjust the cut scores as necessary.

4. The State Board of Education, for the purposes of conducting reliability and validity studies, monitoring contractor adherence to professionally accepted testing standards, and providing recommendations for testing program improvement, shall retain the services of an established, independent agency or organization that is nationally recognized for its technical expertise in educational testing but is not engaged in the development of aptitude or achievement tests for elementary or secondary level grades. These national assessment experts shall annually conduct studies of the reliability and validity of the end-of-instruction tests administered pursuant to this section. Validity studies shall include studies of decision validity, concurrent validity and the validity of performance level cut scores.

C. 1. The State Board of Education shall set the testing window dates for each criterion-referenced test required in paragraphs 1 through 5 of subsection A of this section for grades three through eight so that, with the exception of the writing assessments, the tests are administered to students no earlier than April 10 each year and so that the test results are reported back to school districts in a timely manner. Each criterion-referenced test required in paragraph 6 of subsection A of this section may be administered to students at a time set by the State Board of Education as near as possible to the end of the course. All results

and reports of the criterion-referenced test series required in paragraphs 1 through 5 of subsection A of this section for grades three through eight shall be returned to each school district prior to the beginning of the next school year. The vendor shall provide a final electronic data file of all school site, school district, and state results to the Department and the Office of Accountability prior to September 1 of each year. The Department shall forward the final data files for each school district and each school site in that district to the school district. The Board shall ensure the contract with the testing vendor includes a provision that the vendor report test results directly to the Office of Accountability at the same time it is reported to the Board.

2. State, district, and site level results of all tests required in this section shall be disaggregated by gender, race ethnicity, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency, and status as economically disadvantaged, except that such disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student. Each school site shall notify the student's parents of the school's performance levels in the Oklahoma School Testing Program as reported in the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program at the end of each school year.

D. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for the development, field-testing, and validation of the criterion-referenced test series required in subsection A of this section. In the interest of economy the Board shall adapt criterion-referenced tests that have been developed by or in collaboration with other states or are otherwise commercially available, or portions of such tests, to the extent that such tests are appropriate for use in the testing program to be administered to Oklahoma students.

E. The Board shall develop, administer, and incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing Program, other testing programs or procedures, including appropriate accommodations for the testing of students with disabilities as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC, Section 1400 et seq.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate the 4th day of May, 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 1st day of April, 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives