

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Wednesday, February, 24, 2010

House Bill No. 3253

HOUSE BILL NO. 3253 - By: BLACKWELL, KERN, HILLIARD AND MCDANIEL (JEANNIE) of the House and BROGDON of the Senate.

An Act relating to schools; creating the School District Transparency Act; defining terms; directing the State Department of Education to develop and operate a single publicly accessible website; specifying information to be included on the website; requiring search capabilities; requiring additional information to be included on the website after a certain date; requiring information to be posted within certain time; directing school districts to provide necessary information; prohibiting disclosure of confidential information; limiting liability; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1       SECTION 1.   NEW LAW   A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma  
2 Statutes as Section 5-135.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in  
3 numbering, reads as follows:

4       A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "School District Transparency  
5 Act".

6       B. As used in the School District Transparency Act:

7       1. "Single website" means a website that allows the public to access information  
8 identified in subsections C and D of this section without any fee or charge to the public  
9 for the access; and

1           2. "Expenditure of funds" means the disbursement of state funds, local funds and  
2 federal funds whether appropriated or nonappropriated, excluding the payment of  
3 voluntary deductions by employees to receiving parties.

4           C. No later than January 1, 2011, the State Department of Education shall develop  
5 and operate a single website accessible by the public. The website shall include itemized  
6 expenditures by the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System code designation for each school  
7 district in the state. No later than January 1, 2011, the website shall include search  
8 capabilities.

9           D. As soon as practicable after January 1, 2011, the website shall also include, but  
10 not be limited to, the following information related to each expenditure of funds:

11           1. Name and principal location of the entity or recipients of the funds, excluding the  
12 release of information relating to the place of residence of an individual, release of  
13 information prohibited by subsection D of Section 24A.7 of Title 51 of the Oklahoma  
14 Statutes or by federal law relating to privacy rights;

15           2. Amount of funds expended;

16           3. Type of transaction;

17           4. Funding or expending entity; and

18           5. Descriptive purpose of the funding action or expenditure.

19           E. All data required to be posted on the single website pursuant to this section  
20 shall be available on the website no later than thirty (30) days after the expenditure  
21 information has been transmitted to the State Department of Education.

1 F. All school districts shall provide to the State Department of Education all  
2 information as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section.

3 G. Nothing in this section shall require the disclosure of information which is  
4 required to be kept confidential by state or federal law.

5 H. The disclosure of information required by this section shall create no liability  
6 whatsoever, civil or criminal, to the State of Oklahoma, any member of the State Board  
7 of Education or any employee of the State Department of Education for disclosure of the  
8 information or for any error or omission in the disclosure.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2010.

10 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
11 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof  
12 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET,  
14 dated 02-23-10 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.