

SB 834

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THE STATE SENATE  
Thursday, February 19, 2009

Senate Bill No. 834  
As Amended

SENATE BILL NO. 834 - By: Ford of the Senate and Jones of the House.

[ schools - School District Empowerment Program -  
codification - 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 3-129 of Title 70, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby established the School District Empowerment  
Program which shall be administered by the State Board of Education.  
The purpose of the program is to empower locally elected school  
board members to govern school districts and make decisions based on  
the needs of their students and circumstances.

B. A school district identified by the State Board of Education  
for participation in the School District Empowerment Program shall  
be exempt from all statutory requirements and State Board of  
Education rules from which charter schools are exempt as provided  
for in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, except that the district  
shall continue to be required to enroll all students who are  
residents of the school district.

1 C. School districts which include a school that has been  
2 identified for school improvement for the 2009-2010 school year by  
3 the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and  
4 Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.,  
5 shall be identified for participation in the School District  
6 Empowerment Program and shall implement the program beginning in the  
7 2010-2011 school year.

8 D. 1. By September 30, 2010, the State Board of Education  
9 shall randomly select twenty percent (20%) of districts from each of  
10 the following categories for implementation during the 2011-2012  
11 school year:

12 a. districts with an Average Daily Membership (ADM) of  
13 less than two hundred fifty (250),

14 b. districts with an ADM of less than five hundred (500)  
15 and greater than or equal to two hundred fifty (250),

16 c. districts with an ADM of less than two thousand  
17 (2,000) and greater than or equal to five hundred  
18 (500), and

19 d. districts with an ADM of two thousand (2,000) or more.

20 2. The selection of districts as directed by this subsection  
21 shall:

22 a. occur during open meetings of the Board,

1           b.    occur each year thereafter, for implementation by the  
2                    districts selected during the following school year,  
3                    until all districts have been selected to implement  
4                    the program, and

5           c.    be applicable to the number of districts in each  
6                    category as of September 30, 2010, to allow for all  
7                    districts to be selected by September 30, 2014.

8           SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 2009.

9    COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 2-16-09 - DO  
10   PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.