

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 HOUSE BILL 3159

By: Osborn

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Public  
8 School District Financial Transparency Act; stating  
9 legislative findings; defining terms; directing all  
10 public school districts to develop and operate a  
11 publically accessible website database; specifying  
12 information to be included on the website database;  
13 requiring additional information to be included on  
14 the website after a certain date; requiring  
15 information to be posted within certain time;  
16 requiring website database to be accessible from the  
17 main school district website; prohibiting disclosure  
18 of confidential information; limiting liability;  
19 providing for codification; providing an effective  
20 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

22 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-135.1 of Title 70, unless  
24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

B. The Legislature finds that taxpayers should have easier  
access to details regarding how public schools are spending taxpayer

1 dollars. Easier access to and storage of electronic data can  
2 facilitate increasing transparency in public school financial  
3 matters. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to direct  
4 all public school districts create and maintain a website database  
5 detailing financial activities.

6 C. As used in the Public School District Financial Transparency  
7 Act:

8 1. "Website database" means a single, searchable website that  
9 allows the public to access information identified in this section  
10 without any fee or charge to the public for the access, which may be  
11 downloaded by the user, and allows the user to systematically sort,  
12 search and access all data;

13 2. "Expenditure of funds" means the disbursement of state  
14 funds, local funds and federal funds whether appropriated or  
15 nonappropriated, excluding the payment of voluntary deductions by  
16 employees to receiving parties; and

17 3. "Public school district" means a school district organized  
18 and existing pursuant to law, including technology center school  
19 districts and charter schools organized pursuant to the Oklahoma  
20 Charter Schools Act.

21 D. No later than July 1, 2011, each public school district in  
22 the state shall develop, operate, and maintain a website database  
23 that is accessible by the public. The website shall include  
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1 itemized expenditures by the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System code  
2 designation for each public school district in the state.

3 E. As soon as practicable after July 1, 2011, the website  
4 database shall also include, but not be limited to, the following  
5 information related to each expenditure of funds:

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

11 2. Amount of funds expended;

12 3. Type of transaction;

13 4. The funding source of the expenditure;

14 5. Funding or expending entity; and

15 6. Descriptive purpose of the funding action or expenditure.

16 F. All data required to be posted on the website database  
17 pursuant to this section shall be updated on the website on a  
18 monthly basis. All data shall be archived on the website and shall  
19 remain accessible and searchable by the public.

20 G. The website database required pursuant to this section shall  
21 be made easily accessible from the main page of the website for the  
22 public school district.

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

4 I. The disclosure of information required by this section shall  
5 create no liability whatsoever, civil or criminal, to the State of  
6 Oklahoma, a public school district or any employee of a public  
7 school district for disclosure of the information or for any error  
8 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  
11 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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