

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1618

By: Halligan

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,  
8 Section 11-103.6, as last amended by Section 3,  
9 Chapter 173, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section  
10 11-103.6), which relates to curricular requirements  
11 for high school graduation; requiring completion of  
Algebra II for high school graduation beginning with  
entering ninth grade students in the 2010-11 school  
year; providing an effective date; and declaring an  
emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 11-103.6, as  
16 last amended by Section 3, Chapter 173, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp.  
17 2009, Section 11-103.6), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 11-103.6 A. The State Board of Education shall adopt  
19 curricular standards for instruction of students in the public  
20 schools of this state that are necessary to ensure there is  
21 attainment of desired levels of competencies in a variety of areas  
22 to include language, mathematics, science, social studies and  
23 communication. All students shall gain literacy at the elementary  
24 and secondary levels through a core curriculum. Students must

1 develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, computing and critical  
2 thinking. They also must learn about cultures and environments -  
3 their own and those of others with whom they share the earth.  
4 Students, therefore, must study social studies, literature,  
5 languages, the arts, mathematics and science. Such curricula shall  
6 provide for the teaching of a hands-on career exploration program in  
7 cooperation with technology center schools. The core curriculum  
8 shall be designed to teach the competencies for which students shall  
9 be tested as provided in Section 1210.508 of this title, and shall  
10 be designed to prepare all students for employment and/or  
11 postsecondary education.

12 B. ~~Beginning~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,  
13 beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the 2006-07  
14 school year and subject to the provisions of subsection C of this  
15 section, in order to graduate from a public high school accredited  
16 by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students  
17 shall complete the following college preparatory/work ready  
18 curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

19 1. Four units of English to include Grammar, Composition,  
20 Literature, or any English course approved for college admission  
21 requirements;

22 2. ~~Three~~

23 a. Beginning with students entering ninth grade in the  
24 2006-07 school year, three units of mathematics,

1 limited to Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry,  
2 Trigonometry, Math Analysis, Calculus, Advanced  
3 Placement Statistics, or any mathematics course with  
4 content and/or rigor above Algebra I and approved for  
5 college admission requirements, and

6 b. beginning with students entering ninth grade in the  
7 2010-11 school year, three units of mathematics that  
8 includes Algebra I and Algebra II and at least one  
9 additional unit limited to Geometry, Trigonometry,  
10 Math Analysis, Calculus, Advanced Placement  
11 Statistics, or any mathematics course with content  
12 and/or rigor above Algebra I and approved for college  
13 admission requirements;

14 3. Three units of laboratory science, limited to Biology,  
15 Chemistry, Physics, or any laboratory science course with content  
16 and/or rigor equal to or above Biology and approved for college  
17 admission requirements;

18 4. Three units of history and citizenship skills, including one  
19 unit of American History, 1/2 unit of Oklahoma History, 1/2 unit of  
20 United States Government and one unit from the subjects of History,  
21 Government, Geography, Economics, Civics, or Non-Western culture and  
22 approved for college admission requirements;

23 5. Two units of the same foreign or non-English language or two  
24 units of computer technology approved for college admission

1 requirements, whether taught at a high school or a technology center  
2 school, including computer programming, hardware, and business  
3 computer applications, such as word processing, databases,  
4 spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding keyboarding or typing courses;

5 6. One additional unit selected from paragraphs 1 through 5 of  
6 this subsection or career and technology education courses approved  
7 for college admission requirements; and

8 7. One unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music,  
9 art, or drama, or one unit or set of competencies of speech.

10 C. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the  
11 2006-07 school year, in lieu of the requirements of subsection B of  
12 this section which requires a college preparatory/work ready  
13 curriculum, a student may enroll in the core curriculum as provided  
14 in subsection D of this section upon written approval of the parent  
15 or legal guardian of the student. School districts may require a  
16 parent or legal guardian of the student to meet with a designee of  
17 the school prior to enrollment in the core curriculum. The State  
18 Department of Education shall develop and distribute to school  
19 districts a form suitable for this purpose, which shall include  
20 information on the benefits to students of completing the college  
21 preparatory/work ready curriculum as provided for in subsection B of  
22 this section.

23 D. ~~For~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, for  
24 students who entered the ninth grade prior to the 2006-07 school

1 year and for those students subject to the requirements of  
2 subsection C of this section, in order to graduate from a public  
3 high school accredited by the State Board of Education with a  
4 standard diploma, students shall complete the following core  
5 curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

6 1. Language Arts - 4 units or sets of competencies, to consist  
7 of 1 unit or set of competencies of grammar and composition, and 3  
8 units or sets of competencies which may include, but are not limited  
9 to, the following courses:

- 10 a. American Literature,
- 11 b. English Literature,
- 12 c. World Literature,
- 13 d. Advanced English Courses, or
- 14 e. other English courses with content and/or rigor equal  
15 to or above grammar and composition;

16 2. a. For students who entered the ninth grade prior to the  
17 2006-07 school year, Mathematics - 3 units or sets of  
18 competencies, to consist of 1 unit or set of  
19 competencies of Algebra I or Algebra I taught in a  
20 contextual methodology, and 2 units or sets of  
21 competencies which may include, but are not limited  
22 to, the following courses:

- 23 ~~a.~~ (1) Algebra II,

24



1 of competencies, to consist of 1 unit or set of  
2 competencies of Algebra I or Algebra I taught in a  
3 contextual methodology, Algebra II taught in a  
4 contextual methodology, and 1 unit or set of  
5 competencies which may include, but are not limited  
6 to, the following courses:

7 (1) Geometry or Geometry taught in a contextual  
8 methodology,

9 (2) Trigonometry,

10 (3) Math Analysis or Precalculus,

11 (4) Calculus,

12 (5) Statistics and/or Probability,

13 (6) Computer Science,

14 (7) contextual mathematics courses which enhance  
15 technology preparation whether taught at a:

16 (a) comprehensive high school, or

17 (b) technology center school when taken in the

18 eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by a

19 certified teacher, and approved by the State

20 Board of Education and the independent

21 district board of education,

22 (8) mathematics courses taught at a technology center

23 school by a teacher certified in the secondary

24 subject area when taken in the eleventh or

1                    twelfth grade upon approval of the State Board of  
2                    Education and the independent district board of  
3                    education, or

4                    (9) equal to or above Algebra I;

5                    3. Science - 3 units or sets of competencies, to consist of 1  
6 unit or set of competencies of Biology I or Biology I taught in a  
7 contextual methodology, and 2 units or sets of competencies in the  
8 areas of life, physical, or earth science or technology which may  
9 include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 10                    a. Chemistry I,
- 11                    b. Physics,
- 12                    c. Biology II,
- 13                    d. Chemistry II,
- 14                    e. Physical Science,
- 15                    f. Earth Science,
- 16                    g. Botany,
- 17                    h. Zoology,
- 18                    i. Physiology,
- 19                    j. Astronomy,
- 20                    k. Applied Biology/Chemistry,
- 21                    l. Applied Physics,
- 22                    m. Principles of Technology,
- 23                    n. qualified agricultural education courses,

- 1           o. contextual science courses which enhance technology  
2           preparation whether taught at a:  
3           (1) comprehensive high school, or  
4           (2) technology center school when taken in the  
5           eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by a certified  
6           teacher, and approved by the State Board of  
7           Education and the independent district board of  
8           education,
- 9           p. science courses taught at a technology center school  
10           by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area  
11           when taken in the eleventh or twelfth grade upon  
12           approval of the State Board of Education and the  
13           independent district board of education, or
- 14           q. other science courses with content and/or rigor equal  
15           to or above Biology I;

16           4. Social Studies - 3 units or sets of competencies, to consist  
17 of 1 unit or set of competencies of United States History, 1/2 to 1  
18 unit or set of competencies of United States Government, 1/2 unit or  
19 set of competencies of Oklahoma History, and 1/2 to 1 unit or set of  
20 competencies which may include, but are not limited to, the  
21 following courses:

- 22           a. World History,  
23           b. Geography,  
24           c. Economics,

1           d. Anthropology, or

2           e. other social studies courses with content and/or rigor  
3           equal to or above United States History, United States  
4           Government, and Oklahoma History; and

5           5. Arts - 2 units or sets of competencies which may include,  
6 but are not limited to, courses in Visual Arts and General Music.

7           E. 1. In addition to the curriculum requirements of either  
8 subsection B or D of this section, in order to graduate from a  
9 public high school accredited by the State Board of Education  
10 students shall complete the requirements for a personal financial  
11 literacy passport as set forth in the Passport to Financial Literacy  
12 Act and any additional course requirements or recommended elective  
13 courses as may be established by the State Board of Education and  
14 the district school board. School districts shall strongly  
15 encourage students to complete two units or sets of competencies of  
16 foreign languages and two units or sets of competencies of physical  
17 and health education.

18           2. No student shall receive credit for high school graduation  
19 more than once for completion of the same unit or set of  
20 competencies to satisfy the curriculum requirements of this section.

21           3. A school district shall not be required to offer every  
22 course listed in subsections B and D of this section, but shall  
23 offer sufficient courses to allow a student to meet the graduation  
24 requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

1 F. For purposes of this section:

2 1. "Contextual methodology" means academic content and skills  
3 taught by utilizing real-world problems and projects in a way that  
4 helps students understand the application of that knowledge;

5 2. "Qualified agricultural education courses" means courses  
6 that have been determined by the State Board of Education to offer  
7 the sets of competencies in the Priority Academic Student Skills  
8 (PASS), as adopted by the Board, for one or more science content  
9 areas and which correspond to academic science courses. Qualified  
10 agricultural education courses shall include, but are not limited  
11 to, Horticulture, Plant and Soil Science, Natural Resources and  
12 Environmental Science, and Animal Science. The courses shall be  
13 taught by teachers certified in agricultural education and comply  
14 with all rules of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology  
15 Education;

16 3. "Rigor" means a level of difficulty that is appropriate for  
17 the grade level and that meets state and/or national standards;

18 4. "Sets of competencies" means those skills and competencies  
19 that are specified in the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS),  
20 as adopted by the State Board of Education, subchapter 5, Chapter  
21 15, Title 210 of the Oklahoma Administrative Code, and other skills  
22 and competencies adopted by the Board; and

23 5. "Unit" means a Carnegie Unit as defined by the North Central  
24 Association's Commission on Schools.

1 G. 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt a plan to  
2 ensure that rigor is maintained in the content, teaching  
3 methodology, level of expectations for student achievement, and  
4 application of learning in all the courses taught to meet the  
5 graduation requirements as specified in this section.

6 2. The State Board of Education shall allow as much flexibility  
7 at the district level as is possible without diminishing the rigor  
8 or undermining the intent of providing these courses. To accomplish  
9 this purpose, the State Department of Education shall work with  
10 school districts in reviewing and approving courses taught by  
11 districts that are not specifically listed in subsections B and D of  
12 this section. Options may include, but shall not be limited to,  
13 courses taken by concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, or  
14 correspondence, or courses bearing different titles.

15 3. Technology center school districts may offer programs  
16 designed in cooperation with institutions of higher education which  
17 have an emphasis on a focused field of career study upon approval of  
18 the State Board of Education and the independent district board of  
19 education. Students in the tenth grade may be allowed to attend  
20 these programs for up to one-half (1/2) of a school day and credit  
21 for the units or sets of competencies required in paragraphs 2 and 3  
22 of subsection B or D of this section shall be given if the courses  
23 are taught by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area;  
24 provided, credit for units or sets of competencies pursuant to

1 subsection B of this section shall be approved for college admission  
2 requirements.

3 4. If a student enrolls in a concurrent course, the school  
4 district shall not be responsible for any costs incurred for that  
5 course, unless the school district does not offer enough course  
6 selection during the student's secondary grade years to allow the  
7 student to receive the courses needed to meet the graduation  
8 requirements of this section. If the school district does not offer  
9 the necessary course selection during the student's secondary grade  
10 years, it shall be responsible for the cost of resident tuition at  
11 an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
12 fees, and books for the concurrent enrollment course, and providing  
13 for transportation to and from the institution to the school site.

14 It is the intent of the Legislature that for students enrolled  
15 in a concurrent enrollment course which is paid for by the school  
16 district pursuant to this paragraph, the institution charge only the  
17 supplementary and special service fees that are directly related to  
18 the concurrent enrollment course and enrollment procedures for that  
19 student. It is further the intent of the Legislature that fees for  
20 student activities and student service facilities, including the  
21 student health care and cultural and recreational service fees, not  
22 be charged to such students.

23 5. Credit for the units or sets of competencies required in  
24 subsection B or D of this section shall be given when such units or

1 sets of competencies are taken in the seventh or eighth grades if  
2 the teachers are certified or authorized to teach the subjects for  
3 high school credit and the required rigor is maintained.

4 6. Beginning with ninth-grade students enrolled in the 2008-  
5 2009 school year, the three units or sets of competencies in  
6 mathematics required in subsection B or D of this section shall be  
7 completed in the ninth through twelfth grades; provided, if a  
8 student completes any required courses in mathematics prior to ninth  
9 grade, the student may take any other mathematics courses to fulfill  
10 the requirement to complete three units in grades nine through  
11 twelve after the student has satisfied the requirements of  
12 subsection B or D of this section.

13 7. All units or sets of competencies required for graduation  
14 may be taken in any sequence recommended by the school district.

15 H. As a condition of receiving accreditation from the State  
16 Board of Education, all students in grades nine through twelve shall  
17 enroll in a minimum of six periods, or the equivalent in block  
18 scheduling, of rigorous academic and/or rigorous vocational courses  
19 each day, which may include arts, vocal and instrumental music,  
20 speech classes, and physical education classes.

21 I. 1. Academic and vocational-technical courses designed to  
22 offer sets of competencies integrated or embedded within the course  
23 that provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills  
24 and knowledge in the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS), as

1 adopted by the State Board of Education, may upon approval of the  
2 Board be counted for academic credit and toward meeting the  
3 graduation requirements of this section.

4 2. Internet-based courses offered by a technology center school  
5 that are taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching  
6 and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the PASS  
7 may, upon approval of the State Board of Education and the  
8 independent district board of education, be counted for academic  
9 credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of this  
10 section.

11 3. Internet-based courses or vocational-technical courses  
12 utilizing integrated or embedded skills for which no Priority  
13 Academic Student Skills have been adopted by the State Board of  
14 Education may be approved by the Board if such courses incorporate  
15 standards of nationally recognized professional organizations and  
16 are taught by certified teachers.

17 4. Courses offered by a supplemental education organization  
18 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and that are  
19 taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching and  
20 learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the PASS may,  
21 upon approval of the State Board of Education and the school  
22 district board of education, be counted for academic credit and  
23 toward meeting the graduation requirements of this section.

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1 J. The State Board of Education shall provide an option for  
2 high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels  
3 of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of  
4 Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the  
5 amount of course credits earned.

6 K. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt and  
7 approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of  
8 specified levels of competencies in each area of the core  
9 curriculum.

10 L. Children who have individualized education programs pursuant  
11 to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and who  
12 satisfy the graduation requirements through the individualized  
13 education program for that student shall be awarded a standard  
14 diploma.

15 M. For students who enter the ninth grade in or prior to the  
16 2007-08 school year who are enrolled in an alternative education  
17 program and meet the requirements of their plans leading to high  
18 school graduation developed pursuant to Section 1210.568 of this  
19 title shall be awarded a standard diploma.

20 N. Any student who completes the curriculum requirements of the  
21 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be awarded a  
22 standard diploma.

23 O. Any student who successfully completes an advanced  
24 mathematics or science course offered pursuant to Section 1210.404

1 of this title shall be granted academic credit toward meeting the  
2 graduation requirements pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3, as  
3 appropriate, of subsection B or D of this section.

4 P. For purposes of this section, the courses approved for  
5 college admission requirements shall be courses which are approved  
6 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for admission to  
7 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

8 Q. The State Department of Education shall collect and report  
9 data by school site and district on the number of students who  
10 enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection D of this  
11 section.

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

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

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