

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 834
Version:	Floor Amendment 2
Author:	Representative Jones
Date:	April 13, 2009
Impact:	\$0

Bill Summary

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Nicole Barnes

The Floor Substitute for SB 834 establishes the School District Empowerment Program, the purpose of which is to empower locally elected school boards to govern districts without state regulations and make appropriate decisions based on the needs of the district's students. The measure requires compliance with the existing statutory requirements regarding school attendance, the teachers' minimum salary schedule, participation in the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System, flex benefit allowance for teachers, background checks, personnel evaluations, certain payroll deductions, teacher certification, curriculum for high school graduation, and school board training. The measure also requires the State Board of Education to adopt a five-year implementation schedule whereby 20% of the districts from each of the following size groups will participate in the program during each of the following five years, beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, and all schools participating by 2015-2016: 1) less than 250 Average Daily Membership (ADM), 2) between 250 and 500 ADM, 3) between 500 and 2,000 ADM, and 4) greater than 2000 ADM. Finally, the measure applies the right to hearings and trials de novo to certain teachers.

Fiscal Analysis

Though the measure does not specifically address the issue of school funding, if exemptions for schools under this Act follow those that also apply to Charter Schools, then the State Department of Education is still required to fund the schools through the State Aid Funding Formula. However, as with new charter schools, no additional appropriations are required.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director