

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2676

By: Shumate

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; establishing the Oklahoma  
9 Bridge to Literacy Program; stating purpose of the  
10 Program; directing the State Department of Education  
11 to issue requests for proposals by certain dates and  
12 to review applications; describing private entities  
13 eligible to submit applications; providing for  
14 approval of applications; specifying requirements of  
15 approved application reading programs; requiring the  
16 Department to forward approved applications to the  
17 State Board of Education; directing the Board to  
18 award grants through a competitive bid process;  
19 requiring awards to be made statewide; stating uses  
20 of grants; directing the Department to provide  
21 certain training, resources, and assistance to grant  
22 recipients; directing the Board to provide for  
23 independent evaluation of the funded programs;  
24 requiring the Board to prepare and submit a report;  
specifying contents of the reports; providing for  
codification; providing an effective date; and  
declaring an emergency.

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 1210.516 of Title 70, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1           A. The State Board of Education shall establish the Oklahoma  
2 Bridge to Literacy Program. The purpose of the Program is to  
3 improve reading skills of children up through the fourth grade, as  
4 measured by mastery of the skills identified in the Priority  
5 Academic Student Skills (PASS), by training and assisting private  
6 entities, as defined in subsection C of this section, to offer  
7 reading instruction to children before school, after school, on  
8 Saturdays and during summer periods.

9           B. The State Department of Education shall issue a request for  
10 proposals on or before October 1, 2012, and each October 1  
11 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is  
12 funded, seeking applications for the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy  
13 Program. The Department shall review the applications for  
14 compliance with the established requirements.

15           C. Private entities eligible to submit applications for the  
16 Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program shall include the following:

17           1. Nonprofit organizations or programs which are exempt from  
18 taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the  
19 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3);

20           2. Community-based programs, centers, organizations or services  
21 which maintain community participation or supervision in their  
22 planning, operation and evaluation; and

23           3. Churches or religious organizations, associations, or  
24 societies or nonprofit organizations or programs operated,

1 supervised or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious  
2 organization, association or society.

3 D. The State Board of Education may approve applications that  
4 meet the requirements set forth in this subsection and as  
5 established by the Board. Approved applications shall establish  
6 reading programs for children up through the fourth grade. The  
7 reading programs may be offered before school, after school, on  
8 Saturdays or during summer periods. The reading programs shall  
9 offer reading instruction designed to enable the children to acquire  
10 the appropriate level reading skills and shall provide diagnostic  
11 assessments and measurement of reading skills to determine reading  
12 success. The reading program shall focus on the acquisition of  
13 reading skills including, but not limited to, phonological  
14 awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, vocabulary, and  
15 comprehension.

16 E. On or before December 1, 2012, and each December 1  
17 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is  
18 funded, the Department shall forward applications that the  
19 Department has determined meet the requirements of this section to  
20 the Board. On or before February 1, 2013, and each February 1  
21 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is  
22 funded, the Board shall award, through a competitive bid process,  
23 one or more grants to private entities to provide reading  
24 instruction programs through the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy

1 Program. To the extent possible, grants shall be awarded on a  
2 statewide basis. The grant funding shall be used to provide the  
3 reading instruction program, provide employees and volunteers for  
4 the program and to purchase materials for the program.

5 F. In addition to the grant funding, the Department shall  
6 provide to the private entities awarded grants pursuant to this  
7 section the following:

8 1. Reading instruction training, academies or courses designed  
9 to train the private entity employees or volunteers in reading  
10 instruction and remediation strategies;

11 2. Resources and materials on reading instruction and  
12 remediation; and

13 3. Any other appropriate assistance.

14 G. The Board shall provide for independent evaluations of  
15 programs funded pursuant to this section.

16 H. Beginning June 30, 2013, and each year thereafter for which  
17 the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is funded, the Board shall  
18 prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the  
19 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
20 containing:

21 1. Descriptions of the reading programs approved and funded  
22 through the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program;

23 2. Number and amount of grants awarded;

24 3. Number of children served through approved programs; and

1 4. Achievement data for children served through approved  
2 programs.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2012.

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

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