

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 27, 2012

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1564

By: Paddack of the Senate

and

Denney of the House

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8  
9 [ schools - creating the Middle School Education Task  
10 Force - noncodification - effective date -  
emergency ]

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
15 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

16 A. There is hereby created until June 30, 2013, the Middle  
17 School Education Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be  
18 to examine ways that middle school education can be reformed to  
19 prepare middle school students for success in high school, college  
20 and future careers. The task force shall:

21 1. Examine ways to develop individualized instruction for each  
22 student and to identify at-risk learners to ensure that all students  
23 succeed;

- 1           2. Examine ways for school districts to incorporate an emphasis  
2 on preparing for college, career and citizenship into the middle  
3 school curriculum;
- 4           3. Examine professional development programs for teachers in  
5 middle school;
- 6           4. Examine ways to enhance reading instruction with a focus on  
7 reading in content areas;
- 8           5. Focus on ways to emphasize the importance of mathematics and  
9 science education in middle school;
- 10          6. Compare testing methodology in middle school to the methods  
11 of testing in high school; and
- 12          7. Identify barriers to performance in middle school including,  
13 but not limited to, attendance.
- 14          B. The task force shall be composed of fourteen (14) members as  
15 follows:
- 16           1. Four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
17 Senate as follows:
- 18               a. a middle school assistant principal,  
19               b. a full-time teacher who teaches in middle school,  
20               c. a high school principal, and  
21               d. a representative of a statewide organization that  
22                 represents school boards;
- 23          2. Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
24 Representatives as follows:

- a. a middle school principal,
- b. a licensed counselor employed at a middle school,
- c. a parent of a student currently enrolled in middle school, and
- d. a representative of a statewide association representing middle level education;

3. Four members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- a. a superintendent of a public school district,
- b. a representative of a statewide association representing school principals,
- c. a principal of an elementary school, and
- d. a principal recognized as a Middle School Principal of the Year by a statewide association representing principals;

4. One member of the Senate appointed by the Chair of the Senate Education Committee; and

5. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Chair of the House Common Education Committee.

C. The chair and vice-chair of the task force shall be selected by the task force from among the members.

D. A quorum of the task force shall be required in order for any final action of the task force.

E. The task force may meet as often as may be required in order to perform the duties imposed upon it.

1 F. The meetings of the task force shall be subject to the  
2 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

3 G. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for  
4 their service, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

5 1. State employees who are members of the task force shall be  
6 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
7 duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State  
8 Travel Reimbursement Act;

9 2. All other task force members shall be reimbursed by the  
10 appointing authority for travel expenses incurred in the performance  
11 of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement  
12 Act; and

13 3. Legislative members shall be reimbursed in accordance with  
14 Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

15 H. Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the  
16 State Department of Education.

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

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

22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 2-27-12 - DO  
23 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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