

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1530

By: Ford

4
5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to schools; establishing the School
7 District Empowerment Program; stating purpose;
8 exempting certain districts from certain statutory
9 requirements and rules; granting school districts
10 certain options; specifying certain requirements
11 participating school districts shall comply with;
12 providing for codification; providing an effective
13 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-129.11 of Title 70, unless
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. There is hereby established the School District Empowerment
19 Program which shall be administered by the State Board of Education.
20 The purpose of the program is to empower locally elected school
21 board members to govern school districts and make decisions based on
22 the needs of their students and circumstances.

23 B. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a
24 school district identified by the State Board of Education for
25 participation in the School District Empowerment Program shall be
26 exempt from all statutory requirements and State Board of Education

1 rules from which charter schools are exempt as provided for in the
2 Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Nothing in this section shall prevent
3 a school district board of education from choosing to follow any or
4 all state laws, rules, or regulations from which a charter school is
5 exempt. A participating school district shall have the option to
6 adopt policies to implement any requirement for the school district
7 that is consistent with any statutory requirement or mandate or
8 Board rule, but a participating school district shall comply with
9 the following requirements:

10 1. Students who reside in the school district shall be entitled
11 to attend school in the district as set forth in Section 1-114 of
12 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

13 2. School districts shall comply with the requirements of the
14 minimum salary schedule for teachers as set forth in Section 18-
15 114.12 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

16 3. Employees of school districts shall continue to participate
17 as members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma as set
18 forth in Section 17-101 et seq. of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
19 Statutes;

20 4. School districts shall comply with the requirement to
21 provide a health insurance plan for school district employees as set
22 forth in Section 5-117.5 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and to
23 establish or make available to school district employees a cafeteria
24

1 plan as set forth in Section 26-104 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
2 Statutes;

3 5. School districts shall require any person employed by the
4 school district to file with the district board a current Oklahoma
5 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
6 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
7 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Each
8 district shall adopt a policy regarding criminal history record
9 checks as set forth in Section 5-142 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
10 Statutes;

11 6. School districts shall comply with the requirement to
12 evaluate teachers and to train personnel designated to conduct
13 personnel evaluations as set forth in Sections 6-101.10 and 6-101.11
14 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the dismissal and due process
15 procedures for administrators as set forth in Sections 6-101.13
16 through 6-101.15 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and the due
17 process procedures for teachers as set forth in Sections 6-101.21
18 through 6-101.26 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

19 7. School districts shall comply with the requirement to make
20 payroll deductions for either or both professional organization dues
21 and political contributions upon the request of an employee as set
22 forth in Section 5-139 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

23 8. School districts shall employ as teachers, counselors,
24 librarians, school nurses, superintendents, principals, supervisors,

1 or any other instructional, supervisory or administrative employee,
2 only those persons who are certified or licensed by the State Board
3 of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation
4 Act, except for persons exempt from the certification or licensure
5 requirements as otherwise provided by law;

6 9. School districts shall be required to offer and students
7 enrolled in the school district shall be required to complete the
8 curriculum requirements as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of Title 70
9 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

10 10. Students enrolled in the school district shall be required
11 to demonstrate mastery of the state academic content standards as
12 set forth in Section 1210.523 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
13 and

14 11. Members of the school district board of education shall be
15 required to satisfy the instruction and continuing education
16 requirements as set forth in Sections 5-110, 5-110.1 and 5-110.2 of
17 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

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

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

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