

1 private entities, as defined in subsection C of this section, to
2 offer reading instruction to children before school, after school,
3 on Saturdays and during summer periods.

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

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

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

15 2. Community-based programs, centers, organizations or services
16 which maintain community participation or supervision in their
17 planning, operation and evaluation; ~~and~~

18 3. Churches or religious organizations, associations, or
19 societies or nonprofit organizations or programs operated,
20 supervised or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious
21 organization, association or society; and

22 4. Nonprofit tuition-free elementary schools established to
23 meet the educational and social service needs of homeless children.
24

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

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

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

1 reading instruction program, provide employees and volunteers for
2 the program and to purchase materials for the program.

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

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

9 2. Resources and materials on reading instruction and
10 remediation; and

11 3. Any other appropriate assistance.

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

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

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

21 2. Number and amount of grants awarded;

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

23 4. Achievement data for children served through approved
24 programs.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2013.

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

6
7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/26/2013
8 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.