STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 285

By: Ford and Mazzei of the Senate

and

Coody (Ann) of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-162, which relates to information requested of parents upon initial enrollment of a student; modifying name of certain program; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 10-105.3, which relates to the development and implementation of parent education programs; changing certain duties and functions from the State Board of Education to the State Department of Education; allowing the Department to provide certain technical assistance; modifying certain functions; changing the Parents as Teachers Program name; modifying certain report; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.7, which relates to early childhood education programs; directing the State Board of Education to align standards for early childhood education programs with certain standards; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-162, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-162. A. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, upon initial enrollment in a public school district, the school shall request the parent or guardian of a student to provide information to the school district regarding participation in the following:

1. A childcare program that is licensed pursuant to the tiered licensing system established by the Department of Human Services;

2. The Sooner Start program operated by the State Department of Education;

3. The ~~Oklahoma Parents as Teachers~~ program of parent education operated by the State Department of Education pursuant to Section 10-105.3 of this title;

4. The Children First program operated by the State Department of Health;

5. Any child abuse prevention program operated by the State Department of Health;

6. Any federally funded Head Start program; and

7. Any other early childhood program funded by state or federal monies as determined by the State Board of Education.

B. The State Department of Education shall verify the accuracy of the information provided by the parents or guardians pursuant to subsection A of this section with the appropriate agency. Each agency shall cooperate and provide verifying data to the Department.

C. The State Department of Education shall develop state data elements and codes for each program identified pursuant to subsection A of this section for use in the statewide student record system program, which shall be used to provide effective reporting and research on the identified programs. The codes shall be entered into the statewide student record system program upon initial enrollment of a student.

D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 10-105.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 10-105.3 A. The State ~~Board~~ Department of Education shall develop and implement a program of parent education which provides practical information and guidance to parents regarding the development of language, cognition, social skills, and motor development of young children. The program shall be phased in so that services will be available to parents of children under age three (3) in school districts identified by the ~~Board~~ Department as having the greatest numbers of children whose education is considered to be high challenge. As funds are available~~, beginning with the 1992-93 school year,~~ the ~~Board~~ Department shall expand the program so that services will be available to the school sites identified by the ~~Board~~ Department as having the greatest percentage of children qualifying for the free or reduced school lunch program.

The ~~Board~~ Department shall expand the program each year if funding is available to ensure that a parent education program is available to all school districts. In evaluating new funding requests, priority consideration shall be given to programs demonstrating the greatest need combined with the greatest commitment of community, foundation, and corporate support.

B. The program shall emphasize the importance of the parents of children as a child's first and most influential teachers. The parent education programs currently offered in other states should be examined as possible models for the Oklahoma program.

C. The State ~~Board~~ Department of Education shall provide or contract with an organization to provide for technical assistance for ~~a field operations center to coordinate the Oklahoma Parents as Teachers Program~~ training and implementation of the program of parent education developed by the Department pursuant to subsection A of this section. To be eligible for a technical assistance contract, an applicant ~~must~~ shall be an affiliate member of a national organization or association providing parent education training, ~~must~~ have at least two (2) years' experience in implementation of a ~~Parents as Teachers Program~~ program of parent education which provides practical information and guidance to parents, and ~~must~~ have at least one staff member with a degree above the baccalaureate level who has expertise in Child Development or Early Childhood Education. Technical assistance shall include

assistance with training on program organization, management, implementation, and fundraising techniques for groups seeking to implement ~~Parents as Teachers Programs~~ a program of parent education and existing ~~Parents as Teachers Programs~~ parent education programs throughout the state. The technical assistance provider shall compile a report~~,~~ utilizing data collected from the State Department of Education ~~and the Child Service Demonstration Center,~~ on the status of ~~Parents as Teachers Programs~~ parent education programs operating pursuant to this section in Oklahoma, including the locations and descriptions of the programs, the sources of funding for the programs, and pending applications for funding. The report shall be filed on or before April 1 of each year with the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.7 A. Each school district may offer to four-year-old children the opportunity to participate in an early childhood education program.

B. The State Board of Education shall promulgate standards for early childhood education programs for children who are at least four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the ensuing school year. The standards shall include both half-day programs consisting of not less than two and one-half (2 1/2) hours per school day, and full-day programs of six (6) hours. The standards for all early

childhood education programs shall require a certified teacher, as specified in this section, to be present in the classroom for the length of the school day. Such program shall:

1. Be directed toward developmentally appropriate objectives for such children, rather than toward academic objectives suitable for older children;

2. Accommodate the needs of all children and families regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and

3. Require that any teacher employed by a public school to teach in such early childhood education program shall be certified in early childhood education.

C. The superintendent of any school district providing classroom space or other school facilities for a federally sponsored Head Start program that is planning to make a material change in the arrangement, shall give notice to the director of the Head Start program at least seven (7) days prior to a school board hearing on the matter.

D. A school district may offer such early childhood education program within the district, in cooperation with other districts, through the use of transfers as specified by law, or by contracting with a private or public provider of early childhood education programs, or by contracting for classroom space with a licensed public or private child care provider based upon selection criteria established by the district. If the program is provided through

contract with a private or public provider other than a school district, the contract may only be continued if each teacher serving the school on and after January 1, 1993, is certified in early childhood education, except that all teachers, without such certification, hired by such provider prior to January 1, 1993, and serving in the school as an early childhood education teacher shall be required to obtain certification on or before the beginning of the 1996-97 school year. Any person who has been employed as an early childhood educator with the Head Start Program, has a child development associate degree (CDA) and has at least five (5) years of experience in such employment shall be certified in early childhood education for purposes of employment in the public schools of this state to teach in early childhood education for children four (4) years of age and younger; if such person is recertified in child development by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition within five (5) years prior to the expiration of the person's early childhood certificate that was issued by the State Board of Education, such person shall be granted a renewal certificate in early childhood education by the State Board of Education upon expiration of the early childhood certificate. Provided, private or public providers shall meet such other standards required by law and by the State Board of Education.

E. If an early childhood program is provided by a private or public provider pursuant to a contract as authorized in this

section, the contract shall address the requirements for implementing the residency program for resident teachers as required in Section 6-195 of this title. Teachers employed by a private or public provider in an early childhood education program provided through contract with a public school district shall receive in salary and/or fringe benefits amounts not less than the amounts specified in the schedule set forth in Section ~~18-114.7~~ 18-114.14 of this title.

F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to provide for the implementation of such program.

G. An early childhood education program may be offered jointly by school districts that have formed interlocal cooperative agreements pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title.

H. The term ~~"pre-kindergarten"~~ "prekindergarten" shall mean early childhood education for purposes of this title.

I. The State Board of Education shall ensure that the standards for early childhood education are aligned with any new subject matter standards adopted pursuant to Section 11-103.6a of this title.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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