

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2969

By: Nelson of the House

and

Griffin of the Senate

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7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 3-104.4, as last amended by Section 1,
9 Chapter 311, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section
10 3-104.4), which relates to accreditation standards;
11 directing the State Board of Education to adopt
12 accreditation standards for educational services
13 provided in certain types of programs; making
14 standards apply to certain sites and schools;
15 requiring standards to provide for certain status
16 upon failure to comply; requiring the State
17 Department of Education to actively monitor for
18 compliance; directing the Department to investigate
19 complaints and report accreditation status to the
20 State Board of Education within certain time period;
21 and requiring the Board to withdraw accreditation if
22 a school fails to take certain action.

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

24 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-104.4, as
last amended by Section 1, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp.
2015, Section 3-104.4), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-104.4 A. On or before February 1, 1991, the State
Board of Education shall adopt standards for the accreditation of
the public schools in this state according to the requirements of

1 this act, to be effective as set forth in this act. The
2 accreditation standards shall incorporate the curricular standards
3 established pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of this title. The
4 accreditation standards shall equal or exceed the accreditation
5 standards for schools promulgated by the North Central Association
6 of Colleges and Schools to the extent that the standards are
7 consistent with an academic results-oriented approach to
8 accreditation, excluding those standards which deal with affective
9 behavior to the extent the adoption of the standards does not
10 conflict with state statute. The accreditation adopted by the State
11 Board shall encompass accreditation for elementary schools, middle
12 schools, junior high schools, and high schools. The accreditation
13 standards shall be made available for public inspection at the
14 offices of the State Department of Education.

15 B. Standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board of
16 Education shall include standards relating to the provision of
17 school counselors to the public school children of this state. The
18 State Board of Education shall require each local school district to
19 provide information regarding the number of counselors serving each
20 school site, the duties of all such counselors including all
21 administrative duties, the number of students served by each
22 counselor, and information regarding the number of counselors
23 employed per elementary school, middle school, junior high school
24 and high school.

1 C. Except as otherwise provided by subsection A of this section
2 with regard to curricular standards, as a condition of receiving
3 state accreditation pursuant to this act:

4 1. High schools shall meet the accreditation standards not
5 later than June 30, 1995; and

6 2. Elementary, middle and junior high schools shall meet the
7 accreditation standards not later than June 30, 1999.

8 Schools shall thereafter continue to meet the accreditation
9 standards as a condition of continued accreditation. Nothing herein
10 shall be construed as preventing changes to the adopted standards by
11 the State Board of Education pursuant to the Administrative
12 Procedures Act.

13 D. If one or more school sites fails to receive accreditation
14 as required pursuant to this section by the dates set forth in
15 subsection C of this section or subsequently loses accreditation,
16 the State Board of Education shall close the school and reassign the
17 students to accredited schools within the district or shall annex
18 the district to one or more other districts in which the students
19 can be educated in accredited schools.

20 E. Standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board of
21 Education shall include standards relating to the provisions of
22 educational services provided in partial hospitalization programs,
23 day treatment programs, day hospital programs, residential treatment
24 programs and emergency shelter programs for persons between the ages

1 of three (3) and twenty-one (21) years of age. The accreditation
2 standards shall apply to onsite and offsite educational services
3 provided by public school districts or state-accredited private
4 schools. The accreditation standards shall provide for warnings,
5 probation or nonaccredited status for schools that fail to meet the
6 standards. Each school which is providing or is required to provide
7 educational services for students placed in a program as described
8 in this subsection shall be actively monitored by the State
9 Department of Education. The Department shall determine on an
10 ongoing basis if the educational program and services are in
11 compliance with the accreditation standards. The Department shall
12 investigate a complaint of failure to provide educational services
13 within ten (10) days of receiving the complaint. If the Department
14 determines that a school has failed to comply with the accreditation
15 standards the Department shall report the recommended warning,
16 probation or nonaccredited accreditation status to the State Board
17 of Education within sixty (60) days. If a school does not take
18 action to comply with the accreditation standards within ninety (90)
19 days after a report is filed by the Department, the Board shall
20 withdraw accreditation for the school.

21 F. State Board accreditation regulations shall provide for
22 warnings and for assistance to schools and school districts whenever
23 there is reason to believe a school is in danger of losing its state
24 accreditation.

1 ~~F.~~ G. The State Board shall provide assistance to districts in
2 considering the possibility of meeting accreditation requirements
3 through the use of nontraditional means of instruction. The State
4 Board shall also assist districts in forming cooperatives and making
5 arrangements for the use of satellite instruction or other
6 instructional technologies to the extent that use of such
7 instructional means meets accreditation standards.

8 ~~G.~~ H. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, and June 30,
9 2016, accreditation shall not be withdrawn from or denied nor shall
10 a penalty be assessed against a school or school district for
11 failing to meet the media materials and equipment standards and
12 media program expenditure standards as set forth in the
13 accreditation standards adopted by the Board.

14 ~~H.~~ I. The State Board shall not assess a financial penalty
15 against any school district which is given a deficiency in
16 accreditation status during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015,
17 and June 30, 2016. Accreditation shall not be withdrawn from or
18 denied, nor shall a penalty be assessed against, a school district
19 for complying with this section.
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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 8th day of March, 2016.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2016.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate