

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE BILL 1537

By: Thomsen

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 11-103.6a, as amended by Section 3, Chapter
9 430, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 11-
10 103.6a), which relates to the review of adopted
11 subject matter standards; updating statutory
12 citation; directing the State Board of Education to
13 adopt certain Science standards by a certain date;
14 providing for meaning of certain terms; and providing
15 an effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.6a,
18 as amended by Section 3, Chapter 430, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp.
19 2014, Section 11-103.6a), is amended to read as follows:

20 Section 11-103.6a A. Beginning with the 2014-15 school year,
21 each area of subject matter standards, except for standards for
22 career and technology education adopted pursuant to Section 14-103
23 of this title, shall be adopted by the State Board of Education and
24 shall be subject to legislative review and approval as provided for
in Section 4 of this act. The subject matter standards shall be

1 implemented statewide by every public school district in this state.
2 The subject matter standards shall be thoroughly reviewed by the
3 State Board every six (6) years according to and in coordination
4 with the existing subject area textbook adoption cycle. After
5 review, the State Board shall adopt any revisions in such subject
6 matter standards deemed necessary to achieve further improvements in
7 the quality of education for the students of this state. Any
8 revisions adopted by the State Board of Education shall be subject
9 to review and approval as provided for in Section ~~4~~ 11-103.6a-1 of
10 this ~~act~~ title. The adoption of subject matter standards or
11 revisions to the standards by the State Board of Education pursuant
12 to this section shall not be promulgated as rules and shall not be
13 subject to Article I of the Administrative Procedures Act.

14 B. 1. In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection
15 A of this section, on or before August 1, 2016, the State Board of
16 Education, in consultation with the State Regents for Higher
17 Education, the State Board of Career and Technology Education and
18 the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, shall adopt subject matter
19 standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics which are
20 college- and career-ready and will replace current standards. To be
21 considered college- and career-ready, the standards shall be
22 evaluated by the State Department of Education, the State Regents
23 for Higher Education, the State Board of Career and Technology
24 Education and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and be determined

1 to be such that the standards will address the goals of reducing the
2 need for remedial coursework at the postsecondary level and
3 increasing successful completion of postsecondary education. The
4 subject matter standards and corresponding student assessments for
5 English Language Arts and Mathematics shall be solely approved and
6 controlled by the state through the State Board of Education.

7 2. Upon the effective date of this act, the State Board of
8 Education shall begin the process of adopting the English Language
9 Arts and Mathematics standards and shall provide reasonable
10 opportunity, consistent with best practices, for public comment on
11 the revision of the standards, including but not limited to comments
12 from students, parents, educators, organizations representing
13 students with disabilities and English language learners, higher
14 education representatives, career technology education
15 representatives, subject matter experts, community-based
16 organizations, Native American tribal representatives and business
17 community representatives.

18 3. Until the statewide student assessments for English Language
19 Arts and Mathematics are implemented as provided for in paragraph 1
20 of subsection C of this section, the State Board of Education shall
21 implement the subject matter standards for English Language Arts and
22 Mathematics which were in place prior to the revisions adopted by
23 the Board in June 2010.
24

1 4. Upon the effective date of this act, the State Board of
2 Education shall seek certification from the State Regents for Higher
3 Education that the subject matter standards for English Language
4 Arts and Mathematics which were in place prior to the revisions
5 adopted by the Board in June 2010 are college- and career-ready as
6 defined in the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
7 Flexibility document issued by the United States Department of
8 Education and referenced in Option B of Principle 1: College and
9 Career-Ready Expectations for All Students. The State Regents shall
10 provide the Board a detailed description of the certification
11 process and results, including a list of deficiencies if the State
12 Regents conclude that the standards are not college- and career-
13 ready. The Board shall post all documents, materials, reports,
14 descriptions and correspondence produced by the State Regents or
15 used by the State Regents in the certification process on the
16 website for the State Department of Education.

17 C. 1. On or before the 2017-18 school year, the State Board of
18 Education, in consultation with the State Regents for Higher
19 Education, the State Board of Career and Technology Education and
20 the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, shall direct the process of the
21 development of annual high-quality statewide student assessments for
22 English Language Arts and Mathematics as provided for in Section
23 1210.508 of this title that align with the college- and career-ready
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1 subject matter standards developed pursuant to subsection B of this
2 section.

3 2. The statewide student assessments for English Language Arts
4 and Mathematics shall continue to assess standards and objectives
5 found in the subject matter standards for English Language Arts and
6 Mathematics which were in place prior to the revisions adopted by
7 the Board in June 2010 and the test blueprints shall continue to
8 align to the standards and objectives found in such subject matter
9 standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics until the new
10 assessments are implemented as provided for in paragraph 1 of this
11 subsection.

12 D. In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection A of
13 this section, on or before August 1, 2017, the State Board of
14 Education shall adopt subject matter standards for Science which are
15 college- and career-ready and will replace the current standards.
16 The meaning of college- and career-ready shall be the same as set
17 forth in subsection B of this section.

18 E. 1. The State Board of Education shall not enter into any
19 agreement, memorandum of understanding or contract with any federal
20 agency or private entity which in any way cedes or limits state
21 discretion or control over the process of development, adoption or
22 revision of subject matter standards and corresponding student
23 assessments in the public school system, including, but not limited
24 to, agreements, memoranda of understanding and contracts in exchange

1 for funding for public schools and programs. If the State Board of
2 Education is a party to such an agreement, memorandum of
3 understanding or contract on the effective date of this act, the
4 State Board of Education shall initiate necessary efforts to amend
5 the agreement, memorandum of understanding or contract to comply
6 with the requirements of this subsection.

7 2. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the
8 State Board of Education from seeking and being granted a waiver
9 from federal law, provided that the conditions for the waiver do not
10 require the state to cede or limit its discretion or control over
11 the process of development, adoption or revision of subject matter
12 standards and corresponding statewide student assessments.

13 3. The State Department of Education may participate in a
14 multistate or multigovernmental cooperative pursuant to the
15 requirements of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act, but shall not
16 bind the state, contractually or otherwise, to the authority of any
17 other state, organization or entity which may supersede the
18 authority of the State Board of Education.

19 ~~E.~~ F. The content of all subject matter standards and
20 corresponding student assessments shall be solely approved and
21 controlled by the state through the State Board of Education. The
22 State Board of Education shall maintain independence of all subject
23 matter standards referenced in Section 11-103.6 of this title and
24 corresponding statewide student assessments and shall not relinquish

1 authority over Oklahoma subject matter standards and corresponding
2 statewide student assessments. Nothing in this section shall
3 prohibit benchmarking the state subject matter standards and
4 corresponding student assessments with those of other states or
5 nations to allow comparison of Oklahoma subject matter standards and
6 corresponding student assessments with those of other states and
7 nations.

8 ~~F.~~ G. School districts shall exclusively determine the
9 instruction, curriculum, reading lists and instructional materials
10 and textbooks, subject to any applicable provisions or requirements
11 as set forth in law, to be used in meeting the subject matter
12 standards. School districts may, at their discretion, adopt
13 supplementary student assessments which are in addition to the
14 statewide student assessments.

15 ~~G.~~ H. 1. Upon completion of the adoption of English Language
16 Arts and Mathematics subject matter standards pursuant to subsection
17 B of this section, the State Board of Education shall compare such
18 English Language Arts and Mathematics standards with the English
19 Language Arts and Mathematics standards that were adopted by the
20 State Board of Education prior to implementation of this act. The
21 State Board of Education shall consider public comments, the use of
22 best practices, evidence and research in the evaluation of both sets
23 of standards. The State Board of Education shall compare the
24 standards in the areas of:

- a. effective preparation for active citizenship and postsecondary education or the workforce,
- b. subject matter content,
- c. sequencing of subject matter content and relationship to measurement of student performance and the application of subject matter standards,
- d. developmental appropriateness of grade-level expectations, academic content and instructional rigor,
- e. clarity for educators and parents,
- f. exemplars tied to the standards,
- g. measurability of student proficiency in the subject matter,
- h. pedagogy,
- i. development of critical thinking skills, and
- j. demonstration of application of acquired knowledge and skills.

2. Upon completion of the comparison of the English Language Arts and Mathematics subject matter standards, the State Board of Education shall submit to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the Senate a report outlining the results of the comparison of the standards.

1 ~~H.~~ I. All subject matter standards and corresponding statewide
2 student assessments adopted by the State Board of Education shall be
3 carefully circumscribed to reflect direct application to subject
4 matter proficiency and shall not include standards or assessment
5 questions that are designed to collect or measure noncognitive,
6 emotional or psychological characteristics, attributes or skills of
7 students.

8 ~~I.~~ J. Any rule, including but not limited to Rules 210:15-4-1
9 through 210:15-4-3 of the Oklahoma Administrative Code, which
10 conflicts with the requirements of this section, shall be amended or
11 repealed by the State Board of Education as necessary to comply with
12 the requirements of this section.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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