

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 286

By: Pittman

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Community  
8 Learning Act; providing short title; providing  
9 definitions; establishing eligibility criteria for  
10 application of the act; allowing certain boards of  
11 education and charter sponsors to initiate certain  
12 process; requiring public hearing; allowing certain  
13 agreement; requiring certain annual hearing;  
14 requiring election; establishing requirements for  
15 election; providing for certain transition upon  
16 certain election results; directing creation of  
17 certain team; prescribing duties of team; directing  
18 submission of certain improvement plan; providing for  
19 vote on certain plan; prescribing duties of the State  
20 Board of Education; allowing certain negotiation;  
21 providing for membership of certain team; providing  
22 for designation of certain person to assist team;  
23 providing for terms of members; providing for filling  
24 of vacancies; prohibiting compensation for members;  
prescribing duties of the team; providing for  
promulgation of rules; providing for codification;  
providing an effective date; and declaring an  
emergency.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.559 of Title 70, unless  
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:  
24

1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Community  
2 Learning Act".

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.559a of Title 70, unless  
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 As used in this act:

7 1. "Community learning center" means a public school or a  
8 charter school created pursuant to Section 3-132 of Title 70 of the  
9 Oklahoma Statutes that participates in a coordinated, community-  
10 based effort with community partners to provide comprehensive  
11 educational, developmental, family, and health services to students,  
12 families, and community members during school hours and hours in  
13 which school is not in session; and

14 2. "Community partner" means a provider to students, families,  
15 or community members of health care services, on-site resource  
16 coordinators, and any other services or programs determined  
17 appropriate by a school action team created pursuant to Section 4 of  
18 this act.

19 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.559b of Title 70, unless  
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. This section shall apply to any public school or charter  
23 school site to which any of the following conditions apply:  
24

1 1. The site is listed as in need of improvement in accordance  
2 with subsection (g)(6) of Section 1003 of Title I of the Elementary  
3 and Secondary Education act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended;

4 2. The site is a secondary school that is among the lowest  
5 achieving fifteen percent (15%) of secondary schools statewide, as  
6 determined by the State Department of Education;

7 3. The site is a secondary school with a graduation rate of  
8 sixty percent (60%) or lower for three (3) or more consecutive  
9 years;

10 4. The site is a school that the State Department of Education  
11 identifies as persistently low performing; or

12 5. A site that is not listed as in need of improvement, but for  
13 which the school district board of education or charter school  
14 sponsor approves the operation of the school as a community learning  
15 center.

16 B. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each school  
17 district board of education or charter school sponsor may initiate a  
18 community learning center process for any school site to which this  
19 section applies. To initiate the process, the board of education or  
20 charter school sponsor shall conduct a public information hearing at  
21 each school site to inform the community of the community learning  
22 center process. The board of education or charter school sponsor  
23 may:  
24

1           1. Announce the meeting not less than forty-five (45) days in  
2 advance at the school site and on the school's or district's  
3 websites and using tools to ensure effective communication with  
4 individuals with disabilities;

5           2. Schedule the meeting for an evening or weekend time;

6           3. Provide interpretation services and written materials in all  
7 languages spoken by five percent (5%) or more of the students  
8 enrolled in the school;

9           4. Provide child care services for parents attending the  
10 meeting; and

11           5. Provide parents, students, teachers, support employees, and  
12 community members with the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

13           C. The board of education or charter school sponsor may enter  
14 into an agreement with any civic engagement organizations, community  
15 organizations or employee organizations to support the  
16 implementation of the community learning center process.

17           D. The board of education or charter school sponsor shall  
18 conduct a follow-up hearing at least once annually until action is  
19 taken to create a community learning center or until the conditions  
20 described in subsection A of this section no longer apply to the  
21 school site.

22           E. 1. No sooner than forty-five (45) days after the first  
23 public information hearing, the board of education or charter school  
24 sponsor shall conduct an election, by paper ballot, to initiate the

1 process to become a community learning center. Only parents or  
2 guardians of students enrolled in the school, parents or guardians  
3 of students enrolled in a technology center school that serves the  
4 school district but are otherwise entitled to attend the school  
5 district, and teachers and support employees who are assigned to the  
6 school may vote in the election.

7 2. The board of education or charter school sponsor shall  
8 distribute the ballots by mail and make copies available at the  
9 school and on the school's website. The board of education or  
10 charter school sponsor may also distribute the ballots directly to  
11 teachers and support employees and send home ballots with every  
12 student enrolled in the school site.

13 F. The board of education or charter school sponsor shall  
14 initiate the transition of the school site to a community learning  
15 center if the results of the election held pursuant to subsection E  
16 of this section are as follows:

17 1. At least fifty percent (50%) of the parents and guardians of  
18 students enrolled in the eligible school site and parents and  
19 guardians of students enrolled in a technology center school that  
20 serves the school district, but are otherwise entitled to attend the  
21 school district, cast ballots by a date set by the board of  
22 education or charter school sponsor, and of those ballots at least  
23 sixty-seven percent (67%) are in favor of initiating the process;  
24 and

1           2. At least fifty percent (50%) of the teachers and support  
2 employees who are assigned to the school site cast ballots by a date  
3 set by the board of education or charter school sponsor, and of  
4 those ballots at least sixty-seven percent (67%) are in favor of  
5 initiating the process.

6           G. If a community learning center process is initiated, the  
7 board of education or charter school sponsor shall create a school  
8 action team pursuant to Section 4 of this act. Within four (4)  
9 months upon selection, the school action team shall conduct and  
10 complete, in consultation with community partners, a performance  
11 audit of the school and review, with parental input, the needs of  
12 the school with regard to restructuring pursuant to Section 1210.544  
13 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The school action team shall  
14 provide quarterly updates of its work in a public hearing that  
15 complies with the same requirements established in subsection B of  
16 this section.

17           H. 1. Upon completion of the audit and review, the school  
18 action team shall present its findings at a public hearing that  
19 complies with the same requirements established in subsection B of  
20 this section. After the school action team presents its findings,  
21 it shall create a community learning center improvement plan that  
22 designates appropriate interventions, which may be based on the  
23 recommendations developed by the State Board of Education pursuant  
24 to subsection J of this section.

1           2. If there is a federally mandated school improvement planning  
2 process, the team shall coordinate its work with that plan.

3           3. The school action team shall approve the plan by a majority  
4 vote.

5           I. 1. Upon approval of the plan by the school action team, the  
6 team shall submit the community learning center improvement plan to  
7 the same individuals described in subsection E of this section.  
8 Ballots shall be distributed and an election shall be conducted in  
9 the same manner prescribed by subsection E of this section.

10           2. The school action team shall submit the plan to the board of  
11 education or charter school sponsor if the results of the election  
12 held pursuant to this subsection are as follows:

13           a. at least thirty percent (30%) of parents and guardians  
14 of students enrolled in the eligible school site and  
15 parents and guardians of students enrolled in a  
16 technology center school that serves the school  
17 district, but are otherwise entitled to attend the  
18 school district, cast ballots by a date set by the  
19 board of education or charter school sponsor, and of  
20 those ballots at least fifty percent (50%) are in  
21 favor of initiating the process, and

22           b. at least thirty percent (30%) of teachers and support  
23 employees who are assigned to the school site cast  
24 ballots by a date set by the board of education or

1 charter school sponsor, and of those ballots at least  
2 fifty percent (50%) are in favor of initiating the  
3 process.

4 3. The board of education or charter school sponsor shall  
5 evaluate the plan and determine whether to adopt it. The board of  
6 education or charter school sponsor shall adopt the plan in full or  
7 adopt portions of the plan. If the plan is not adopted in full, the  
8 board of education or charter school sponsor shall provide a written  
9 explanation of why portions of the plan were rejected.

10 J. 1. To implement the provisions of the Community Learning  
11 Act, the State Board of Education shall:

- 12 a. develop appropriate interventions for a community  
13 learning center improvement plan that may be used by a  
14 school action team pursuant to subsection H of this  
15 section, and
- 16 b. publish a menu of programs and services that may be  
17 offered by community learning centers. The State  
18 Board of Education shall solicit input from resource  
19 coordinators of existing community learning centers,  
20 and information shall be posted on the State  
21 Department of Education's website.

22 2. To implement the provisions of this act, the State Board of  
23 Education may:  
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- 1           a.    provide assistance, facilitation, and training to  
2                    school action teams in the conducting of the audit  
3                    required by this act,
- 4           b.    provide opportunities for members of school action  
5                    teams from different schools to share school  
6                    improvement strategies with parents, teachers, and  
7                    other relevant stakeholders in higher performing  
8                    schools, and
- 9           c.    provide financial support in a school action team's  
10                   planning process and create a grant program to assist  
11                   in the implementation of a community learning center  
12                   plan.

13           K.    Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements  
14 of this section shall prevail over any conflicting provisions of a  
15 collective bargaining agreement entered into on or after the  
16 effective date of this act.   However, the district board of  
17 education or charter school sponsor and the bargaining unit may  
18 negotiate additional factors to be considered in the adoption of a  
19 community learning center plan.

20           SECTION 4.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.559c of Title 70, unless  
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23           A.    1.    If a community learning center process is initiated  
24 pursuant to Section 3 of this act for any public school or charter

1 school site, the district board of education or charter school  
2 sponsor shall create a school action team for the school site. The  
3 team shall consist of twelve (12) members as follows:

- 4 a. seven (7) individuals, consisting of parents or  
5 guardians of students enrolled in the school and  
6 members of the community who are not teachers or  
7 support employees, as elected by their peers, and
- 8 b. five (5) teachers and support employees who are  
9 assigned to the school site and are not parents or  
10 guardians of students enrolled in the school, as  
11 elected by their peers.

12 2. To assist a school action team, the district board of  
13 education or charter school sponsor shall select an individual who  
14 is employed by the public school or charter school to serve as the  
15 resource coordinator for the community learning center. The school  
16 action team shall make recommendations to the district board of  
17 education or charter school sponsor on potential candidates. The  
18 resource coordinator shall not be considered a member of the school  
19 action team. The resource coordinator shall assist in the  
20 development and coordination of programs and services for the  
21 community learning center.

22 B. All members of a school action team shall serve as voting  
23 members. Terms of office shall be for three (3) years, and  
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1 vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
2 appointment. Members shall serve without compensation.

3 C. In addition to the responsibilities outlined in Section 3 of  
4 this act, the school action team shall:

5 1. Monitor and assist in the implementation of the school  
6 improvement plan, if adopted;

7 2. Meet with candidates for principal and other administrative  
8 positions and make recommendations to the superintendent and  
9 district board of education or charter school sponsor;

10 3. Advise on school budgets;

11 4. Establish ongoing mechanisms that engage students, parents,  
12 and community members in the school;

13 5. Continue to collect feedback and information from parents  
14 using an annual survey;

15 6. Develop and approve a written parent involvement policy that  
16 outlines the role of parents and guardians in the school;

17 7. Monitor school progress on data related to academic  
18 achievement, attendance, suspensions, expulsions, graduation rates,  
19 and reclassifications of disaggregated by major racial and ethnic  
20 groups, limited English proficient students, economically  
21 disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities;

22 8. Receive regular updates from the principal on policy matters  
23 affecting the school and provide advice on such matters; and  
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1 9. Meet regularly with parents and community members to discuss  
2 policy matters affecting the school.

3 D. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to  
4 implement the provisions of this act.

5 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

6 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
7 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
8 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
9 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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