

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 37

By: Loveless

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-111, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 135, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 1-111), which relates to the school day; requiring eighty percent of the school year to consist of five-day school weeks; allowing school districts to extend the length of school days for certain percentage of school year; permitting school districts to submit certain waiver to State Board of Education; requiring waiver request to include certain plan; requiring Board to make decision regarding request within certain time period; permitting school district to resubmit amended request if Board denies request; setting maximum time period for approved request; requiring school district to submit annual report; requiring Board to annually assess certain status of school district; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-111, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 135, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 1-111), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-111. A. Except as otherwise provided for by law, a eighty percent (80%) of the school year shall consist of five-day

1 school weeks, and a school day shall consist of not less than six  
2 (6) hours devoted to school activities. A district board of  
3 education may elect to extend the length of one (1) or more school  
4 days to more than six (6) hours and reduce the number of school days  
5 for up to twenty percent (20%) of the school year as long as the  
6 total amount of classroom instruction time is not less than one  
7 thousand eighty (1,080) hours per year as required pursuant to  
8 Section 1-109 of this title.

9 B. A school day for nursery, early childhood education,  
10 kindergarten, and alternative education programs shall be as  
11 otherwise defined by law or as defined by the State Board of  
12 Education. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, not  
13 more than one (1) school day shall be counted for attendance  
14 purposes in any twenty-four-hour period. Two (2) school days, each  
15 consisting of not less than six (6) hours, may be counted for  
16 attendance purposes in any twenty-four-hour period only if one of  
17 the school days is for the purpose of parent-teacher conferences  
18 held as provided for in Section 1-109 of this title.

19 C. Students absent from school in which they are regularly  
20 enrolled may be considered as being in attendance if the reason for  
21 such absence is to participate in scheduled school activities under  
22 the direction and supervision of a regular member of the faculty or  
23 to participate in an online course approved by the district board of  
24 education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to

1 provide for the implementation of supplemental online courses which  
2 shall include, but not be limited to, provisions addressing the  
3 following:

4 1. Criteria for student admissions eligibility;

5 2. A student admission process administered through the  
6 district of residence, which provides the ability for the student to  
7 enroll in individual courses;

8 3. A process by which students are not denied the opportunity  
9 to enroll in educationally appropriate courses by school districts.  
10 For the purposes of this section, "educationally appropriate" means  
11 any instruction that is not substantially a repeat of a course or  
12 portion of a course that the student has successfully completed,  
13 regardless of the grade of the student, and regardless of whether a  
14 course is similar to or identical to the instruction that is  
15 currently offered in the school district;

16 4. Creation of a system which provides ongoing enrollment  
17 access for students throughout the school year;

18 5. A grace period of fifteen (15) calendar days from the first  
19 day of an online course for student withdrawal from an online course  
20 without academic penalty;

21 6. Mastery of competencies for course completion rather than  
22 Carnegie units;

23 7. Student participation in extracurricular activities in  
24 accordance with school district eligibility rules and policies and

1 any rules and policies of a private organization or association  
2 which provides the coordination, supervision, and regulation of the  
3 interscholastic activities and contests of schools;

4 8. Parent authorization for release of state test results to  
5 online course providers, on a form developed by the State Department  
6 of Education; and

7 9. A review process to identify and certify online course  
8 providers and a uniform payment processing system.

9 D. Each district board of education shall adopt policies and  
10 procedures that conform to rules for online courses as adopted by  
11 the State Board. Such policies shall include criteria for approval  
12 of the course, the appropriateness of the course for a particular  
13 student, authorization for full-time students to enroll in online  
14 courses, and establishing fees or charges. No district shall be  
15 liable for payment of any fees or charges for any online course for  
16 a student who has not complied with the district's policies and  
17 procedures. School districts shall not deny students the  
18 opportunity to enroll in educationally appropriate courses and shall  
19 provide an admissions process which includes input from the student,  
20 the parent or guardian of the student, and school faculty.

21 E. Districts shall require students enrolled in online courses  
22 to participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act. Students  
23 participating in online courses from a remote site will be  
24 responsible for providing their own equipment and Internet access,

1 unless the district chooses to provide the equipment. Credit may  
2 not be granted for such courses except upon approval of the State  
3 Board of Education and the district board of education.

4 F. The school day for kindergarten may consist of six (6) hours  
5 devoted to school activities.

6 G. 1. A school district shall be allowed to submit a request  
7 to the Board for a waiver from the requirement under subsection A of  
8 this section that eighty percent (80%) of the school year shall  
9 consist of five-day school weeks and any related rules. Any request  
10 for such waiver shall include a plan which details the goals sought  
11 to be achieved by the waiver, the intended educational and fiscal  
12 benefits and the anticipated impacts or outcomes the plan will have  
13 in the school district including a discussion of any potential  
14 disadvantages that have been identified by the school district.

15 2. Within ninety (90) days after receiving the request and  
16 plan, the Board shall approve or disapprove the request. Any  
17 request for a waiver from the requirements of subsection A of this  
18 section shall be approved by the Board before implementation by the  
19 school district. If the Board does not approve the request, it  
20 shall provide to the school district a written explanation of the  
21 basis for its decision. The school district may resubmit an amended  
22 request at any time after the denial. An approved request and plan  
23 shall be for no longer than three (3) years. Prior to the beginning  
24 of the third year, the school district may apply for renewal of the

1 approved request and plan. The school district shall be required to  
2 submit an annual report, and the Board shall annually assess the  
3 academic achievement and fiscal status of the school district.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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