

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 SENATE BILL 989

By: Sparks

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to education; requiring emotional  
8 literacy education to be taught in public school  
9 districts; requiring emotional literacy education to  
10 include certain areas of instruction; requiring  
11 emotional literacy education to be provided to  
12 certain grades; directing the State Department of  
13 Education to develop certain guidelines, materials  
14 and professional development programs; directing the  
15 Department to provide and identify certain resources;  
16 allowing the Department to work with certain  
17 nonprofit organizations; directing school districts  
18 to assign certain education to certain teacher, to  
19 certain extent; providing for promulgation of rules;  
20 providing for codification; providing an effective  
21 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.12 of Title 70, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Emotional literacy education shall be taught in the public  
school districts in this state. Emotional literacy education shall  
include but is not limited to the following areas of instruction:

1. Understanding emotion vocabulary;

1        2. Understanding facial expressions of emotion;

2        3. Understanding coping skills. "Coping skills" means  
3 constantly changing cognitive and behavioral efforts to manage  
4 specific external and/or internal demands that are appraised as  
5 taxing or exceeding the resources of the person; and

6        4. Understanding conflict resolution.

7        B. School districts shall provide emotional literacy education  
8 to students during grades kindergarten through six.

9        C. The State Department of Education shall:

10       1. Develop guidelines and materials designed to enable schools  
11 to include emotional literacy education within any course of study  
12 currently offered by the school district or to offer emotional  
13 literacy education as a separate course. The guidelines shall  
14 outline the areas of instruction to be taught based on the subject  
15 matter standards adopted pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of Title 70 of  
16 the Oklahoma Statutes;

17       2. Develop professional development programs that are designed  
18 to help teachers provide instruction in emotional literacy education  
19 and incorporate the instruction into an existing course or courses  
20 or develop curriculum for a separate emotional literacy education  
21 course;

22       3. Provide and identify resources, including online curricula,  
23 for integrating the teaching of emotional literacy education into an  
24 existing course or courses or for developing a separate emotional

1 literacy education course. Any online curricula provided or  
2 identified shall include an assessment component for each area of  
3 instruction listed in subsection A of this section.

4 D. The Department may work with one or more nonprofit  
5 organizations that have proven expertise in the development of  
6 standards and curriculum and delivery of teacher professional  
7 development in emotional literacy education for the purposes of  
8 developing and providing guidelines, materials, resources and  
9 professional development.

10 E. To deliver high-quality, consistent emotional literacy  
11 education, public school districts shall, to the extent possible,  
12 assign the responsibility of teaching emotional literacy education  
13 to the same teacher or teachers on a continuing basis.

14 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
15 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2018.

17 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
18 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
19 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
20 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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