

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2794

By: Rosecrants

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; declaring legislative intent; defining terms; allowing instruction in early childhood education to foster certain development and learning; providing certain learning environment; authorizing educators to provide certain learning opportunities; authorizing certain professional development for teachers; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 11-103.2a of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the intention of the Oklahoma State Legislature through this act to focus on the importance of child-centered, play-based learning as the most rigorous and most developmentally appropriate way for children in the early childhood grade levels to learn literacy, science, technology, engineering, art and math academic concepts.

1 B. As used in this section:

2 1. "Child-directed" means interaction in which the child is
3 helped to direct and lead the play in any way the child wishes,
4 unless there is harmful or destructive activity;

5 2. "Domains" means a specified sphere of activity or knowledge;

6 3. "Early childhood education" means pre-k, kindergarten, first
7 grade, second grade and third grade;

8 4. "Play" means the spontaneous activity of children;

9 5. "Play-based learning" means any learning activities that are
10 performed by a child for self-amusement that have behavioral, social
11 and psychomotor rewards. Play-based learning shall also mean
12 activities that are child-directed, joyful and spontaneous whereby
13 the rewards come from within the individual child;

14 6. "Professional development" means any of a wide variety of
15 specialized training, formal education or advanced professional
16 learning intended to help administrators, teachers, and other
17 educators improve their professional knowledge, competence, skill
18 and effectiveness;

19 7. "Reading for pleasure" means reading that is freely chosen
20 or that readers freely and enthusiastically continue after it is
21 assigned; and

22 8. "Socialization" means social interaction with others.

23 C. Instruction in support of early childhood education
24 standards may be engaging and may foster children's development and

1 learning in all domains, including physical, social, emotional,
2 cognitive and language. To the best of their ability, educators may
3 create a learning environment that facilitates child-directed
4 experiences based upon developmentally appropriate early childhood
5 practices and intentional, sustained, play-based learning
6 opportunities, including, but not limited to, movement, creative
7 expression, exploration, socialization, reading for pleasure, art,
8 music and dramatic play. The art instruction may adhere to pre-k
9 standards for fine arts, which include dance, drama, music and
10 visual arts, as approved by the State Department of Education.
11 Educators may develop physical, social, emotional, cognitive and
12 academic learning opportunities in all curricular domains, which may
13 include unstructured time for the discovery of each child's
14 individual needs, abilities and talents.

15 D. In support of play-based learning in Oklahoma public
16 schools, school districts may provide ongoing early childhood
17 professional development for early childhood educators and
18 administrators, which may include existing early childhood
19 professional development programs from the State Department of
20 Education.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.
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