

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 3942

By: Fetgatter

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; authorizing dropout prevention and credit recovery education programs; allowing programs to be offered jointly by school districts and technology centers; listing program requirements; requiring memorandums of understanding regarding program funding; requiring the State Department of Education to make available certain base funding per program instructor; requiring certain funding and expenditure reports; establishing certification requirements for program teachers; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 35e-1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Pursuant to the availability of funds, beginning with the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, the State Board of Education shall authorize a statewide system of dropout prevention and credit recovery education programs.

1 B. Beginning with the first semester of the 2020-2021 school  
2 year, dropout prevention and credit recovery education programs may  
3 be offered jointly between an Oklahoma public school and an Oklahoma  
4 technology center. A program shall:

5 1. Allow class sizes and student/teacher ratios which are  
6 conducive to effective learning for at-risk students;

7 2. Incorporate appropriate structure, curriculum, and  
8 interaction and reinforcement strategies designed to provide  
9 effective instruction;

10 3. Include an intake and screening process to determine  
11 eligibility of students;

12 4. Demonstrate that teaching faculty are appropriately  
13 certified teachers;

14 5. Demonstrate that teaching faculty have been selected on the  
15 basis of a record of successful work with at-risk students or  
16 personal and educational factors that qualify them for work with at-  
17 risk students;

18 6. Reflect appropriate collaborative efforts with state  
19 agencies and local agencies serving youth in the program;

20 7. Provide courses that meet the academic curricula standards  
21 adopted by the State Board of Education and additional remedial  
22 courses;

23 8. Offer individualized instruction;

24 9. State clear and measurable program goals and objectives;

1        10. Include counseling and social services components with the  
2 provision that providers of services are not required to be  
3 certified as school counselors;

4        11. Require a plan leading to graduation be developed for each  
5 student in the program which will allow the student to participate  
6 in graduation exercises for the school district after meeting the  
7 requirements of the school district as specified in the individual  
8 graduation plan for that student. The plan shall specifically  
9 address whether the student is required to meet the graduation  
10 requirements established in Section 11-103.6 of Title 70 of the  
11 Oklahoma Statutes;

12        12. Provide a proposed annual budget;

13        13. Include an evaluation component including an annual written  
14 self-evaluation;

15        14. Be appropriately designed to serve secondary school  
16 students in grades ten through twelve who are most at risk of not  
17 completing a high school education; and

18        15. Allow students in the dropout prevention and credit  
19 recovery program, who otherwise meet all of the participation  
20 requirements, to participate in vocational programs and  
21 extracurricular activities, including but not limited to athletics,  
22 band, and clubs.

23        C. For each dropout prevention and credit recovery program, a  
24 memorandum of understanding shall be established between the

1 participating public school and technology center specifying a  
2 dedicated percentage of state funding received on a per pupil basis  
3 that will be attributed to the operation of the program. In  
4 addition, the State Department of Education shall make available a  
5 base funding level of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) per  
6 instructor in approved dropout prevention and credit recovery  
7 programs.

8 D. By September 15 of each school year, all statewide  
9 alternative education funds received and expended for students  
10 participating in a dropout prevention and credit recovery program  
11 shall be reported to the State Department of Education by major  
12 object codes and by program classifications pursuant to the Oklahoma  
13 Cost Accounting System as adopted by the State Board of Education  
14 pursuant to Section 5-135 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

15 E. A district board of education of a public school or  
16 technology center shall hire only certified teachers to teach in  
17 dropout prevention and credit recovery programs. The teacher's  
18 certification in subjects in which the teacher does not otherwise  
19 hold certification pursuant to the provisions of this section shall  
20 be valid only for purposes of teaching in the dropout prevention and  
21 credit recovery program.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2020.

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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