1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
   BILL NO. 2794   By: Rosecrants, Conley,
2   Waldron, Sterling, Davis,
                                             Ranson, Talley and Fincher
3   of the House

4   and

5   Pugh of the Senate

6

7

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

12

13

14

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

16   SECTION 1.   NEW LAW   A new section of law to be codified

17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.2a of Title 70, unless

18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19   A.   It is the intention of the Oklahoma State Legislature

20 through this act to focus on the importance of child-centered, play-

21 based learning as the most rigorous and most developmentally

22 appropriate way for children in the early childhood grade levels to

23 learn literacy, science, technology, engineering, art and math

24 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. "Domain" means a specified sphere of activity or knowledge;

6   3. "Early childhood education" means pre-kindergarten,

7 kindergarten, first 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 by the reader or that readers freely and enthusiastically continue

21 after it is 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

learning in all domains, including physical, social, emotional,

cognitive and language. To the best of their ability, educators may

create a learning environment that facilitates child-directed

experiences based upon developmentally appropriate early childhood

practices and intentional, sustained, play-based learning

opportunities, including, but not limited to, movement, creative

expression, exploration, socialization, reading for pleasure, art,

music and dramatic play. The art instruction may adhere to pre-

kindergarten standards for fine arts, which include dance, drama,

music and visual arts, as approved by the State Department of

Education. Educators may develop physical, social, emotional,

cognitive and academic learning opportunities in all curricular

domains, which may include unstructured time for the discovery of

each child's individual needs, abilities and talents.

    D. In support of play-based learning in Oklahoma public

schools, school districts may provide ongoing early childhood

professional development for early childhood educators and

administrators, which may include existing early childhood

professional development programs from the State Department of

Education.

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

1   Passed the House of Representatives the 9th day of March, 2020.

2

3

                                                      _____

            Presiding Officer of the House

4   of Representatives

5

    Passed the Senate the ___ day of _____, 2020.

6

7

                                                      _____

8   Presiding Officer of the Senate

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24