

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 18, 2020

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1304

By: Pederson

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7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 1-114, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 4,
9 O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 1-114),
10 which relates to free attendance of public schools;
11 directing school district boards of education to
12 determine whether to require certain tuition fee for
13 certain students to attend; requiring notification of
14 the State Board of Education; making certain credit
15 on nonresident tuition fee applicable to certain
16 school districts; providing an effective date; and
17 declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-114, as
20 amended by Section 1, Chapter 4, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019,
21 Section 1-114), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 1-114. A. All children between the ages of five (5)
23 years on or before September 1, and twenty-one (21) years on or
24 before September 1, shall be entitled to attend school free of
charge in the district in which they reside.

B. All children who are at least four (4) years of age but not
more than five (5) years of age on or before September 1 and who

1 have not attended a public school kindergarten shall be entitled to
2 attend half-day or full-day early childhood programs at any public
3 school in the state where such programs are offered; provided, no
4 child shall be required to attend any early childhood education
5 program. The following paragraphs shall govern early childhood
6 programs:

7 1. Children who are at least four (4) years of age but not more
8 than five (5) years of age on or before September 1 shall be
9 entitled to attend either half-day or full-day early childhood
10 programs in their district of residence free of charge as long as
11 the district has the physical facilities and teaching personnel to
12 accommodate the child. For purposes of calculation of State Aid,
13 children in an early childhood education program shall be included
14 in the average daily membership of the district providing the
15 program;

16 2. A child who has not reached the age of five (5) years on or
17 before September 1 and who resides in a district which does not
18 offer an early childhood program shall be eligible for transfer to a
19 district where an early childhood program is offered if the district
20 that offers the early childhood program agrees to the transfer. A
21 district offering early childhood programs may refuse to accept a
22 nonresident child if the district does not have the physical
23 facilities or teaching personnel to accommodate the child in an
24 early childhood education class. If the child requesting the

1 transfer has not reached the age of four (4) years on or before
2 September 1, the district may refuse to accept the nonresident child
3 if the district determines the child is not ready for an early
4 childhood program. Children who are accepted in a program outside
5 their district of residence as provided in this paragraph shall be
6 included in the average daily membership of the district providing
7 the program for State Aid funding subject to the State Aid formula
8 weight limitations set forth in paragraph 1 of this subsection; and

9 3. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules that
10 create exemptions relating to the maximum age at which a child may
11 attend half-day or full-day early childhood programs.

12 C. No child shall be enrolled in kindergarten unless he or she
13 will have reached the age of five (5) years on or before September 1
14 of the school year. No child shall be enrolled in the first grade
15 unless he or she will have reached the age of six (6) years on or
16 before September 1 of the school year.

17 D. ~~No~~ School district boards of education that allow a
18 nonresident and nontransferred pupil shall be allowed to attend
19 school in any school district unless shall determine whether to
20 require a tuition fee equal to the per capita cost of education for
21 a similar period in such district during the preceding year has been
22 paid. If the board of education requires a tuition fee, it shall be
23 paid to the receiving district in advance yearly or by semester as
24 determined by the district board of education of the receiving

1 district. A school district board of education shall notify the
2 State Board of Education of its decision to require or to not
3 require a tuition fee of nonresident and nontransferred pupils. If
4 the State Board of Education discovers that ~~such~~ the attendance of a
5 nonresident and nontransferred pupil has been allowed without prior
6 payment of the tuition fee in advance ~~as required,~~ if the school
7 district board of education has chosen to require such tuition fee
8 payment, no further payment of any State Aid ~~Funds~~ funds shall be
9 made to the district until such district has shown to the
10 satisfaction of the State Board of Education that all such tuition
11 fees have been paid or that ~~such tuition~~ the pupil will no longer be
12 allowed to attend school until the required tuition fee has been
13 paid.

14 E. Any parent, guardian, person or institution having care and
15 custody of a child who pays ad valorem tax on real property in any
16 other school district other than that in which that person resides
17 may, with the approval of the receiving ~~board~~ school district,
18 enroll the child in any school district in which ad valorem tax is
19 paid and receive a credit on the nonresident tuition fee equal to
20 the amount of the ad valorem tax paid for school district purposes
21 in the school district in which the child is enrolled. Provided,
22 the credit shall not exceed the total amount required for the
23 tuition payment. The provisions of this subsection shall only apply
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1 if the board of education of the receiving school district requires
2 a tuition fee pursuant to subsection D of this section.

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

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

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
9 February 18, 2020 - DO PASS
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