

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 SENATE BILL NO. 996

By: David

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 11-103.6, as last amended by Section 1,  
Chapter 241, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section  
9 11-103.6), which relates to subject matter standards;  
10 including certain block course to the units or sets  
of competencies for mathematics and laboratory  
11 science; updating statutory reference; providing an  
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

12  
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.6, as  
15 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 241, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp.  
16 2018, Section 11-103.6), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 11-103.6. A. 1. The State Board of Education shall  
18 adopt subject matter standards for instruction of students in the  
19 public schools of this state that are necessary to ensure there is  
20 attainment of desired levels of competencies in a variety of areas  
21 to include language, mathematics, science, social studies and  
22 communication.

23 2. School districts shall develop and implement curriculum,  
24 courses and instruction in order to ensure that students meet the

1 skills and competencies as set forth in this section and in the  
2 subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

3 3. All students shall gain literacy at the elementary and  
4 secondary levels. Students shall develop skills in reading,  
5 writing, speaking, computing and critical thinking. For purposes of  
6 this section, critical thinking means a manner of analytical  
7 thinking which is logical and uses linear factual analysis to reach  
8 a conclusion. They also shall learn about cultures and environments  
9 - their own and those of others with whom they share the earth.  
10 Students, therefore, shall study social studies, literature,  
11 languages, the arts, mathematics and science. Such curricula shall  
12 provide for the teaching of a hands-on career exploration program in  
13 cooperation with technology center schools.

14 4. The subject matter standards shall be designed to teach the  
15 competencies for which students shall be tested as provided in  
16 Section 1210.508 of this title, and shall be designed to prepare all  
17 students for active citizenship, employment and/or successful  
18 completion of postsecondary education without the need for remedial  
19 coursework at the postsecondary level.

20 5. The subject matter standards shall be designed with rigor as  
21 defined in paragraph 3 of subsection F of this section.

22 6. The subject matter standards for English Language Arts shall  
23 give Classic Literature and nonfiction literature equal  
24

consideration to other literature. In addition, emphasis shall be given to the study of complete works of literature.

7. At a minimum, the subject matter standards for mathematics shall require mastery of the standard algorithms in mathematics, which is the most logical, efficient way of solving a problem that consistently works, and for students to attain fluency in Euclidian geometry.

B. Subject to the provisions of subsection C of this section, in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students shall complete the following college preparatory/work ready curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

1. Four units or sets of competencies of English to include Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course approved for college admission requirements;

2. Three units or sets of competencies of mathematics, limited to:

a. Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math

Analysis, Calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics, ~~or~~

b. any mathematics course with content and/or rigor above Algebra I and approved for college admission requirements, or

c. a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for course

competencies listed in this paragraph, whether taught  
at a:

(1) comprehensive high school, or

(2) technology center school when taken in the

tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by

a certified teacher, and approved by the

State Board of Education and the independent

district board of education;

3. Three units or sets of competencies of laboratory science  
approved for college admission requirements, including:

a. one unit or set of competencies of life science,  
meeting the standards for Biology I~~+~~,

b. one unit or set of competencies of physical science,  
meeting the standards for Physical Science, Chemistry  
or Physics~~;~~and,

c. one unit or set of competencies from the domains of  
physical science, life science or earth and space  
science such that the content and rigor is above  
Biology I or Physical Science, or

d. a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)  
block course meeting the requirements for course  
competencies listed in this paragraph, whether taught  
at a:

(1) comprehensive high school, or

1                   (2) technology center school when taken in the tenth,  
2                   eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by a certified  
3                   teacher, and approved by the State Board of  
4                   Education and the independent district board of  
5                   education;

6           4. Three units or sets of competencies of history and  
7 citizenship skills, including one unit of American History, 1/2 unit  
8 of Oklahoma History, 1/2 unit of United States Government and one  
9 unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography, Economics,  
10 Civics, or non-Western culture and approved for college admission  
11 requirements;

12           5. Two units or sets of competencies of the same foreign or  
13 non-English language or two units of computer technology approved  
14 for college admission requirements, whether taught at a high school  
15 or a technology center school, including computer programming,  
16 hardware, and business computer applications, such as word  
17 processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding  
18 keyboarding or typing courses;

19           6. One additional unit or set of competencies selected from  
20 paragraphs 1 through 5 of this subsection or career and technology  
21 education courses, concurrently enrolled courses, Advanced Placement  
22 courses or International Baccalaureate courses approved for college  
23 admission requirements; and  
24

1        7. One unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music,  
2 art, or drama, or one unit or set of competencies of speech.

3        C. In lieu of the requirements of subsection B of this section  
4 which requires a college preparatory/work ready curriculum, a  
5 student may enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection  
6 D of this section upon written approval of the parent or legal  
7 guardian of the student. For students under the age of eighteen  
8 (18) school districts shall require a parent or legal guardian of  
9 the student to meet with a designee of the school prior to  
10 enrollment in the core curriculum. The State Department of  
11 Education shall develop and distribute to school districts a form  
12 suitable for this purpose, which shall include information on the  
13 benefits to students of completing the college preparatory/work  
14 ready curriculum as provided for in subsection B of this section.

15        D. For those students subject to the requirements of subsection  
16 C of this section, in order to graduate from a public high school  
17 accredited by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma,  
18 students shall complete the following core curriculum units or sets  
19 of competencies at the secondary level:

20        1. Language Arts - 4 units or sets of competencies, to consist  
21 of 1 unit or set of competencies of grammar and composition, and 3  
22 units or sets of competencies which may include, but are not limited  
23 to, the following courses:

24            a. American Literature,

- b. English Literature,
- c. World Literature,
- d. Advanced English Courses, or
- e. other English courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above grammar and composition;

2. Mathematics - 3 units or sets of competencies, to consist of 1 unit or set of competencies of Algebra I or Algebra I taught in a contextual methodology, and 2 units or sets of competencies which may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- a. Algebra II,
- b. Geometry or Geometry taught in a contextual methodology,
- c. Trigonometry,
- d. Math Analysis or Precalculus,
- e. Calculus,
- f. Statistics and/or Probability,
- g. Computer Science or acceptance and successful completion of one (1) year of a full-time, three-hour career and technology program leading to an industry credential/certificate or college credit. The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate rules to define the provisions of this ~~act~~ section related to the accepted industry-valued credentials which are industry-endorsed or industry-

1 aligned. The list of accepted industry-valued  
2 credentials shall be reviewed annually and updated at  
3 least every three (3) years by the Board,

4 h. (1) contextual mathematics courses which enhance  
5 technology preparation, or

6 (2) a science, technology, engineering and math  
7 (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for  
8 course competencies listed in paragraph 2 of  
9 subsection B of this section, whether taught at  
10 a:

11 (a) comprehensive high school, or

12 (b) technology center school when taken in the  
13 tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by  
14 a certified teacher, and approved by the  
15 State Board of Education and the independent  
16 district board of education,

17 i. mathematics courses taught at a technology center  
18 school by a teacher certified in the secondary subject  
19 area when taken in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth  
20 grade upon approval of the State Board of Education  
21 and the independent district board of education, or

22 j. any other mathematics course with content and/or rigor  
23 equal to or above Algebra I;  
24



1        3. Science - 3 units or sets of competencies, to consist of 1  
2 unit or set of competencies of Biology I or Biology I taught in a  
3 contextual methodology, and 2 units or sets of competencies in the  
4 areas of life, physical, or earth science or technology which may  
5 include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 6            a. Chemistry I,
- 7            b. Physics,
- 8            c. Biology II,
- 9            d. Chemistry II,
- 10           e. Physical Science,
- 11           f. Earth Science,
- 12           g. Botany,
- 13           h. Zoology,
- 14           i. Physiology,
- 15           j. Astronomy,
- 16           k. Applied Biology/Chemistry,
- 17           l. Applied Physics,
- 18           m. Principles of Technology,
- 19           n. qualified agricultural education courses,
- 20           o. (1) contextual science courses which enhance  
21                   technology preparation, or  
22                   (2) a science, technology, engineering and math  
23                   (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for  
24                   course competencies listed in paragraph 3 of

subsection B of this section, whether taught at  
a:

(a) comprehensive high school, or

(b) technology center school when taken in the  
tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by  
a certified teacher, and approved by the  
State Board of Education and the independent  
district board of education,

p. science courses taught at a technology center school  
by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area  
when taken in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade  
upon approval of the State Board of Education and the  
independent district board of education, or

q. other science courses with content and/or rigor equal  
to or above Biology I;

4. Social Studies - 3 units or sets of competencies, to consist  
of 1 unit or set of competencies of United States History, 1/2 to 1  
unit or set of competencies of United States Government, 1/2 unit or  
set of competencies of Oklahoma History, and 1/2 to 1 unit or set of  
competencies which may include, but are not limited to, the  
following courses:

a. World History,

b. Geography,

c. Economics,

1           d.    Anthropology, or

2           e.    other social studies courses with content and/or rigor  
3                equal to or above United States History, United States  
4                Government, and Oklahoma History;

5        5.    Arts - 1 unit or set of competencies which may include, but  
6    is not limited to, courses in Visual Arts and General Music; and

7        6.    Computer Education or World Language - 1 unit or set of  
8    competencies of computer technology, whether taught at a high school  
9    or a technology center school, including computer programming,  
10   hardware and business computer applications, such as word  
11   processing, databases, spreadsheets and graphics, excluding  
12   keyboarding or typing courses, or 1 unit or set of competencies of  
13   foreign or non-English language.

14       E.   1.   In addition to the curriculum requirements of either  
15   subsection B or D of this section, in order to graduate from a  
16   public high school accredited by the State Board of Education  
17   students shall complete the requirements for a personal financial  
18   literacy passport as set forth in the Passport to Financial Literacy  
19   Act and any additional course requirements or recommended elective  
20   courses as may be established by the State Board of Education and  
21   the district school board. School districts shall strongly  
22   encourage students to complete two units or sets of competencies of  
23   foreign languages and two units or sets of competencies of physical  
24   and health education.

1        2. No student shall receive credit for high school graduation  
2 more than once for completion of the same unit or set of  
3 competencies to satisfy the curriculum requirements of this section.

4        3. A school district shall not be required to offer every  
5 course listed in subsections B and D of this section, but shall  
6 offer sufficient courses to allow a student to meet the graduation  
7 requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

8        F. For purposes of this section:

9        1. "Contextual methodology" means academic content and skills  
10 taught by utilizing real-world problems and projects in a way that  
11 helps students understand the application of that knowledge;

12        2. "Qualified agricultural education courses" means courses  
13 that have been determined by the State Board of Education to offer  
14 the sets of competencies for one or more science content areas and  
15 which correspond to academic science courses. Qualified  
16 agricultural education courses shall include, but are not limited  
17 to, Horticulture, Plant and Soil Science, Natural Resources and  
18 Environmental Science, and Animal Science. The courses shall be  
19 taught by teachers certified in agricultural education and comply  
20 with all rules of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology  
21 Education;

22        3. "Rigor" means a level of difficulty that is thorough,  
23 exhaustive and accurate and is appropriate for the grade level;  
24

1       4. "Sets of competencies" means instruction in those skills and  
2 competencies that are specified in the subject matter standards  
3 adopted by the State Board of Education and other skills and  
4 competencies adopted by the Board, without regard to specified  
5 instructional time; and

6       5. "Unit" means a Carnegie Unit as defined by the North Central  
7 Association's Commission on Schools.

8       G. 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt a plan to  
9 ensure that rigor is maintained in the content, teaching  
10 methodology, level of expectations for student achievement, and  
11 application of learning in all the courses taught to meet the  
12 graduation requirements as specified in this section.

13       2. The State Board of Education shall allow as much flexibility  
14 at the district level as is possible without diminishing the rigor  
15 or undermining the intent of providing these courses. To accomplish  
16 this purpose, the State Department of Education shall work with  
17 school districts in reviewing and approving courses taught by  
18 districts that are not specifically listed in subsections B and D of  
19 this section. Options may include, but shall not be limited to,  
20 courses taken by concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, or  
21 correspondence, or courses bearing different titles.

22       3. The State Board of Education shall approve an advanced  
23 placement computer science course to meet the requirements of course  
24 competencies listed in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section

1 if the course is taken in a student's senior year and the student is  
2 concurrently enrolled in or has successfully completed Algebra II.

3 4. Technology center school districts may offer programs  
4 designed in cooperation with institutions of higher education which  
5 have an emphasis on a focused field of career study upon approval of  
6 the State Board of Education and the independent district board of  
7 education. Students in the tenth grade may be allowed to attend  
8 these programs for up to one-half (1/2) of a school day and credit  
9 for the units or sets of competencies required in paragraphs 2, 3  
10 and 6 of subsection B or D of this section shall be given if the  
11 courses are taught by a teacher certified in the secondary subject  
12 area; provided, credit for units or sets of competencies pursuant to  
13 subsection B of this section shall be approved for college admission  
14 requirements.

15 5. If a student enrolls in a concurrent course, the school  
16 district shall not be responsible for any costs incurred for that  
17 course, unless the school district does not offer enough course  
18 selection during the student's secondary grade years to allow the  
19 student to receive the courses needed to meet the graduation  
20 requirements of this section. If the school district does not offer  
21 the necessary course selection during the student's secondary grade  
22 years, it shall be responsible for the cost of resident tuition at  
23 an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
24

1 fees, and books for the concurrent enrollment course, and providing  
2 for transportation to and from the institution to the school site.

3 It is the intent of the Legislature that for students enrolled  
4 in a concurrent enrollment course which is paid for by the school  
5 district pursuant to this paragraph, the institution charge only the  
6 supplementary and special service fees that are directly related to  
7 the concurrent enrollment course and enrollment procedures for that  
8 student. It is further the intent of the Legislature that fees for  
9 student activities and student service facilities, including the  
10 student health care and cultural and recreational service fees, not  
11 be charged to such students.

12 6. Credit for the units or sets of competencies required in  
13 subsection B or D of this section shall be given when such units or  
14 sets of competencies are taken prior to ninth grade if the teachers  
15 are certified or authorized to teach the subjects for high school  
16 credit and the required rigor is maintained.

17 7. The three units or sets of competencies in mathematics  
18 required in subsection B or D of this section shall be completed in  
19 the ninth through twelfth grades. If a student completes any  
20 required courses or sets of competencies in mathematics prior to  
21 ninth grade, the student may take any other mathematics courses or  
22 sets of competencies to fulfill the requirement to complete three  
23 units or sets of competencies in grades nine through twelve after  
24

1 the student has satisfied the requirements of subsection B or D of  
2 this section.

3 8. All units or sets of competencies required for graduation  
4 may be taken in any sequence recommended by the school district.

5 H. As a condition of receiving accreditation from the State  
6 Board of Education, all students in grades nine through twelve shall  
7 enroll in a minimum of six periods, or the equivalent in block  
8 scheduling or other scheduling structure that allows for instruction  
9 in sets of competencies, of rigorous academic and/or rigorous  
10 vocational courses each day, which may include arts, vocal and  
11 instrumental music, speech classes, and physical education classes.

12 I. 1. Academic and vocational-technical courses designed to  
13 offer sets of competencies integrated or embedded within the course  
14 that provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills  
15 and knowledge in the subject matter standards, as adopted by the  
16 State Board of Education, may upon approval of the Board, in  
17 consultation with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology  
18 Education if the courses are offered at a technology center school  
19 district, be counted for academic credit and toward meeting the  
20 graduation requirements of this section.

21 2. Internet-based courses offered by a technology center school  
22 that are taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching  
23 and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject  
24 matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education



1 and the independent district board of education, be counted for  
2 academic credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of  
3 this section.

4 3. Internet-based courses or vocational-technical courses  
5 utilizing integrated or embedded skills for which no subject matter  
6 standards have been adopted by the State Board of Education may be  
7 approved by the Board, in consultation with the Oklahoma Department  
8 of Career and Technology Education if the courses are offered at a  
9 technology center school district, if such courses incorporate  
10 standards of nationally recognized professional organizations and  
11 are taught by certified teachers.

12 4. Courses offered by a supplemental education organization  
13 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and that are  
14 taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching and  
15 learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject  
16 matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education  
17 and the school district board of education, be counted for academic  
18 credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of this  
19 section.

20 J. The State Board of Education shall provide an option for  
21 high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels  
22 of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of  
23 Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the  
24 amount of course credits earned.

1 K. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt and  
2 approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of  
3 specified levels of competencies in each area of the core  
4 curriculum.

5 L. Children who have individualized education programs pursuant  
6 to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and who  
7 satisfy the graduation requirements through the individualized  
8 education program for that student shall be awarded a standard  
9 diploma.

10 M. Students who enter the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-  
11 08 school year who are enrolled in an alternative education program  
12 and meet the requirements of their plans leading to high school  
13 graduation developed pursuant to Section 1210.568 of this title  
14 shall be awarded a standard diploma.

15 N. Any student who completes the curriculum requirements of the  
16 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be awarded a  
17 standard diploma.

18 O. Any student who successfully completes an advanced  
19 mathematics or science course offered pursuant to Section 1210.404  
20 of this title shall be granted academic credit toward meeting the  
21 graduation requirements pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3, as  
22 appropriate, of subsection B or D of this section.

23 P. For purposes of this section, the courses approved for  
24 college admission requirements shall be courses which are approved

1 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for admission to  
2 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

3 Q. Students who have been denied a standard diploma by the  
4 school district in which the student is or was enrolled for failing  
5 to meet the requirements of this section may re-enroll in the school  
6 district that denied the student a standard diploma following the  
7 denial of a standard diploma. The student shall be provided  
8 remediation or intervention and the opportunity to complete the  
9 curriculum units or sets of competencies required by this section to  
10 obtain a standard diploma. Students who re-enroll in the school  
11 district to meet the graduation requirements of this section shall  
12 be exempt from the hourly instructional requirements of Section 1-  
13 111 of this title and the six-period enrollment requirements of this  
14 section.

15 R. The State Department of Education shall collect and report  
16 data by school site and district on the number of students who  
17 enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection D of this  
18 section.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019.

20 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
21 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
22  
23  
24

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.

3

4 57-1-399 EB 2/6/2019 9:35:26 AM

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24