

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE BILL 2646

By: Baker

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating the School Turnaround Act; defining terms; directing the State Department of Education to designate schools in need of intervention; determining the criteria necessary to exit the program; establishing school turnaround committee; selecting independent school turnaround expert; developing and implementing a school turnaround plan with certain criteria; prioritizing funding; streamlining certain authority; submitting school turnaround plan for approval; providing appeals process; directing the State Department of Education to identify independent school turnaround experts; providing independent school turnaround expert contracts contents; specifying professional fee amounts; directing the Department to provide funding for a school turnaround plan under certain circumstances; balancing certain funding needs; providing extension to certain school improvement efforts; directing the Department to promulgate rules; defining term; creating the School Recognition and Reward Program; distributing rewards; providing for codification; 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 1210.651 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "School
2 Turnaround Act".

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.652 of Title 70, unless
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 As used in the School Turnaround Act:

7 1. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

8 2. "School" means a public school under the control of a school
9 district board of education;

10 3. "Educator" means any person who is employed to serve as
11 district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor,
12 librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher or in any other
13 instructional, supervisory or administrative capacity. The person
14 shall not be deemed qualified unless the person holds a valid
15 certificate issued by and in accordance with the rules of the State
16 Board of Education or the rules of the State Board of Career and
17 Technology Education, to perform the particular services for which
18 the person is employed;

19 4. "Initial remedial year" means the year in which a school is
20 designated as a school in need of intervention;

21 5. "School in need of intervention" means a school that has
22 been designated as in need of intervention by the Department of
23 Education according to an outcome-based measure; and
24

1 6. "Statewide assessment" means a test of student achievement,
2 including a test administered in a computer-adaptive format, that is
3 administered statewide.

4 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.653 of Title 70, unless
6 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 A. The Department shall develop and use outcome-based measures
8 to set criteria for the designation of schools in need of
9 intervention.

10 B. No more than one (1) month after school site report cards
11 are delivered pursuant to subsection J of Section 1210.545 of Title
12 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the Department shall designate specific
13 schools as in need of intervention.

14 C. The Department shall determine the specific criteria a
15 school must meet to exit the program based on the same outcome-based
16 measures as were used to designate schools as in need of
17 intervention.

18 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.654 of Title 70, unless
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. On or before October 1 of an initial remedial year, a school
22 district board of education governing a school in need of
23 intervention shall establish a school turnaround committee composed
24 of the following members:

1 1. One member of the school district board of education
2 governing the school in need of intervention;

3 2. The school principal;

4 3. Three parents of students enrolled in the school; and

5 4. Four teachers at the school appointed by the principal.

6 B. 1. On or before October 15 of an initial remedial year, a
7 school district board of education governing a school in need of
8 intervention shall collaborate with the school turnaround committee
9 to select an independent school turnaround expert from the experts
10 identified by the Department under Section 5 of this act.

11 2. An independent school turnaround expert shall not be:

12 a. a member of the school district board of education
13 governing the school in need of intervention, or

14 b an employee of the school district board of education
15 governing the school in need of intervention.

16 C. A school turnaround committee shall collaborate with the
17 independent school turnaround expert selected under subsection B of
18 this section to develop and implement a school turnaround plan that
19 includes:

20 1. The findings of the analysis conducted by the independent
21 school turnaround expert described in paragraph 1 of subsection A of
22 Section 5 of this act;

23 2. Recommendations regarding changes to the school's personnel,
24 culture, curriculum, assessments, instructional practices, digital

1 tools for teaching and learning, governance, leadership, finances,
2 policies, or other areas that may be necessary to implement the
3 school turnaround plan;

4 3. Measurable student achievement goals and objectives;

5 4. A professional development plan that identifies a strategy
6 to address problems of instructional practice;

7 5. A leadership development plan focused on proven strategies
8 to turn around schools in need of intervention;

9 6. A detailed budget specifying how the school turnaround plan
10 will be funded;

11 7. A plan to assess and monitor progress;

12 8. A plan to communicate and report data on progress to
13 stakeholders; and

14 9. A timeline for implementation.

15 D. A school district board of education governing a school in
16 need of intervention shall:

17 1. Prioritize funding and resources to the school in need of
18 intervention; and

19 2. Grant the school streamlined authority over staff, schedule,
20 policies, budget and academic programs to implement the school
21 turnaround plan.

22 E. 1. On or before March 1 of an initial remedial year, a
23 school turnaround committee shall submit the school turnaround plan
24 to a school district board of education for approval.

1 2. On or before April 1 of an initial remedial year, a school
2 district board of education governing a school in need of
3 intervention shall submit the school turnaround plan to the
4 Department for approval. The Department shall:

5 a. review a school turnaround plan submitted for approval
6 under this section within thirty (30) days of
7 submission, and

8 b. approve a school turnaround plan that:

9 (1) is timely,

10 (2) is well-developed, and

11 (3) meets the criteria described in subsection C of
12 this section.

13 3. If a school district board of education does not approve the
14 school turnaround plan submitted under this subsection, the school
15 turnaround committee may appeal the disapproval in accordance with
16 rules promulgated by the Department.

17 4. The Department shall promulgate rules to establish the
18 appeals process pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection and
19 ensure that appeals are resolved on or before April 1 of the initial
20 remedial year.

21 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.655 of Title 70, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. On or before August 30, 2019, the Department shall identify
2 two or more approved independent school turnaround experts, through
3 a request for proposals process to:

4 1. Collect and analyze data on the school's student
5 achievement, personnel, culture, curriculum, assessments,
6 instructional practices, digital tools for teaching and learning,
7 governance, leadership, finances and policies;

8 2. Recommend changes to the school's culture, curriculum,
9 assessments, instructional practices, governance, finances,
10 policies, or other areas based on data collected under paragraph 1
11 of this subsection;

12 3. Develop and implement, in partnership with the school
13 turnaround committee, a school turnaround plan that meets the
14 criteria described in subsection C of Section 4 of this act;

15 4. Monitor the effectiveness of a school turnaround plan
16 through reliable means of evaluation, including on-site visits,
17 observations, surveys, analysis of student achievement data, and
18 interviews;

19 5. Provide ongoing implementation support and project
20 management for a school turnaround plan;

21 6. Provide high-quality professional development and coaching
22 personalized for school staff that is designed to build the:

- 23 a. leadership capacity of the school principal,
24 b. instructional capacity of school staff, and

1 c. collaborative practices of teacher and leadership
2 teams;

3 7. Provide job-embedded professional learning and coaching for
4 all instructional staff on a weekly basis at minimum;

5 8. Provide job-embedded professional learning and coaching for
6 the school principal at least twice monthly, focused on proven
7 strategies to turn around schools in need of intervention that are
8 aligned with state leadership standards; and

9 9. Leverage support from community partners to coordinate an
10 efficient delivery of supports to students both inside and outside
11 the classroom.

12 B. In identifying independent school turnaround experts under
13 subsection A of this section, the Department shall identify experts
14 that:

15 1. Have a credible track record of improving student academic
16 achievement in public schools with various demographic
17 characteristics, as measured by statewide assessments;

18 2. Have experience designing, implementing and evaluating data-
19 driven instructional systems in public schools;

20 3. Have experience coaching public school administrators and
21 teachers on designing and implementing data-driven school
22 improvement plans;

23 4. Have experience collaborating with the various education
24 entities that govern public schools;

1 5. Have experience delivering high-quality professional
2 development and coaching in instructional effectiveness to public
3 school administrators and teachers;

4 6. Are willing to be compensated for professional services
5 based on performance; and

6 7. Are willing to collaborate with any school in need of
7 intervention in the state, regardless of location.

8 C. 1. When awarding a contract to an independent school
9 turnaround expert selected by a school district board of education
10 under subsection B of Section 4 of this act, the Department shall
11 ensure that a contract between a school district board of education
12 and the independent school turnaround expert specifies that the
13 Department shall:

14 a. pay an independent school turnaround expert no more
15 than fifty percent (50%) of the expert's professional
16 fees at the beginning of the independent school
17 turnaround expert's work for the school in need of
18 intervention, and

19 b. pay the remainder of the independent school turnaround
20 expert's professional fees upon the independent school
21 turnaround expert successfully helping a school in
22 need of intervention meet exit criteria as determined
23 by the Department under Section 3 of this act within
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1 three (3) school years after a school is designated as
2 needing intervention.

3 2. In negotiating a contract with an independent school
4 turnaround expert, the Department shall offer:

- 5 a. an average of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
6 (\$500,000.00) per school for the entirety of the
7 project,
- 8 b. differentiated amounts of funding based on student
9 enrollment, and
- 10 c. a higher amount of funding for schools that are in the
11 lowest-performing one-percent (1%) of schools
12 statewide according to an outcomes-based measure
13 determined by the Department.

14 D. The Department shall, subject to legislative appropriations,
15 provide funding to a school in need of intervention for
16 interventions identified in an approved school turnaround plan if
17 the school district board of education provides matching funds or an
18 in-kind contribution of goods or services in an amount equal to the
19 funding the school in need of intervention would receive from the
20 Department.

21 E. The Department shall balance the need to prioritize funding
22 appropriated by the Legislature to contract with highly qualified
23 independent school turnaround experts with the need to set aside
24 funding for:

1 1. Interventions to facilitate the implementation of a school
2 turnaround plan; and

3 2. The School Recognition and Reward Program created under
4 Section 7 of this act.

5 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.656 of Title 70, unless
7 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. 1. A school in need of intervention that does not meet the
9 exit criteria determined by the Department under subsection C of
10 Section 3 of this act within three (3) school years after the day on
11 which the school is designated a school in need of intervention may
12 petition the Department for an extension to continue school
13 improvement efforts for up to three (3) years.

14 2. The Department may only grant an extension under this
15 subsection if the school in need of intervention has demonstrated at
16 least fifty percent (50%) of the improvement necessary to exit the
17 turnaround process, or submits an appeal to the Department.

18 3. The Department may extend the contract of an independent
19 school turnaround expert of a school in need of intervention that is
20 granted an extension under this subsection.

21 B. The Department shall promulgate rules establishing
22 consequences for a school in need of intervention that:

23 1. Does not meet the predetermined exit criteria within three
24 (3) school years after the day on which the school is designated in

1 need of intervention and is not granted an extension under
2 subsection A of this section; or

3 2. Is granted an extension under subsection A of this section
4 and does not meet the predetermined exit criteria within three (3)
5 school years after the day on which the school in need of
6 intervention is granted an extension.

7 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.657 of Title 70, unless
9 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
10 School Recognition and Reward Program.

11 A. As used in this section, "eligible school" means a school in
12 need of intervention that:

13 1. Meets predetermined exit criteria within three (3) school
14 years after the day on which the school is designated a school in
15 need of intervention; or

16 2. Has been granted an extension under subsection A of Section
17 6 of this act and meets predetermined exit criteria within the
18 extension period.

19 B. The School Recognition and Reward Program is hereby created
20 to provide incentives to schools and educators to improve the school
21 in need of intervention. The Program shall be administered by the
22 State Department of Education.

1 C. Subject to appropriations by the Legislature, the Department
2 may determine and distribute rewards, financial or otherwise, for
3 eligible schools and the educators therein.

4 SECTION 8. 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.

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