

1 ENGROSSED SENATE AMENDMENT
TO
2 ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1569

By: Rosecrants, Blancett,
Phillips, Walke, Talley,
Davis, Munson, Ranson,
Conley, Dobrinski, Waldron,
Provenzano, Pae, Miller,
Hilbert, Boles and Cruz of
the House

and

Pugh of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma
Play to Learn Act; declaring legislative intent;
defining terms; allowing instruction in early
childhood education to foster certain development and
learning; providing certain learning environment;
authorizing educators to provide certain learning
opportunities; authorizing certain professional
development for teachers; disallowing school
districts from prohibiting teacher use of play-based
learning; providing for codification; and declaring
an emergency.

AUTHOR: Add the following Senate Coauthor: Stephens

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Page 4, line 4, insert the following after the
period:

"The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules,
subject to approval by the Legislature, establishing
guidelines for professional development programs for early
childhood educators and administrators."

and amend the title to conform

1 Passed the Senate the 21st day of April, 2021.

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4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2021.

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9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives
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development for teachers; disallowing school
districts from prohibiting teacher use of play-based
learning; providing for codification; and declaring
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.2a of Title 70, unless
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
22 Play to Learn Act".

23 B. It is the intention of the Oklahoma State Legislature
24 through this act to focus on the importance of child-centered, play-

1 based learning as the most rigorous and most developmentally
2 appropriate way for children in the early childhood grade levels to
3 learn literacy, science, technology, engineering, art and math
4 academic concepts.

5 C. As used in this section:

6 1. "Child-directed" means interaction in which the child is
7 helped to direct and lead the play in any way the child wishes,
8 unless there is harmful or destructive activity;

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

10 3. "Early childhood education" means prekindergarten,
11 kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade;

12 4. "Play" means the spontaneous activity of children;

13 5. "Play-based learning" means any learning activities that are
14 performed by a child for self-amusement that have behavioral, social
15 and psychomotor rewards. Play-based learning shall also mean
16 activities that are child-directed, joyful and spontaneous whereby
17 the rewards come from within the individual child;

18 6. "Professional development" means any of a wide variety of
19 specialized training, formal education or advanced professional
20 learning intended to help administrators, teachers and other
21 educators improve their professional knowledge, competence, skill
22 and effectiveness;

1 7. "Reading for pleasure" means reading that is freely chosen
2 or that readers freely and enthusiastically continue after it is
3 assigned; and

4 8. "Socialization" means social interaction with others.

5 D. Instruction in support of early childhood education
6 standards may be engaging and may foster children's development and
7 learning in all domains, including physical, social, emotional,
8 cognitive and language. To the best of their ability, educators may
9 create a learning environment that facilitates child-directed
10 experiences based upon developmentally appropriate early childhood
11 practices and intentional, sustained, play-based learning
12 opportunities, including, but not limited to, movement, creative
13 expression, exploration, socialization, reading for pleasure, art,
14 music and dramatic play. The art instruction may adhere to
15 prekindergarten standards for fine arts, which include dance, drama,
16 music and visual arts, as approved by the State Department of
17 Education. Educators may develop physical, social, emotional,
18 cognitive and academic learning opportunities in all curricular
19 domains, which may include unstructured time for the discovery of
20 each child's individual needs, abilities and talents.

21 E. In support of play-based learning in Oklahoma public
22 schools, school districts may provide ongoing early childhood
23 professional development for early childhood educators and
24 administrators, which may include existing early childhood

1 professional development programs from the State Department of
2 Education.

3 F. A school district shall not prohibit a teacher from
4 utilizing play-based learning in early childhood education.

5 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
6 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

9 Passed the House of Representatives the 9th day of March, 2021.

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11 _____
12 Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

13 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2021.

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15 _____
16 Presiding Officer of the Senate
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