

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 1408

By: Rosino of the Senate  
and  
Lawson of the House

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5  
6 An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2021,  
7 Section 640.2, which relates to the Oklahoma  
8 Partnership for School Readiness Board; adding  
9 responsibilities of Board; and providing an effective  
10 date.

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

12 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2021, Section 640.2, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 640.2. A. The Oklahoma Partnership for School  
15 Readiness Board may:

16 1. Establish guidelines for the disbursement of funds received  
17 from any public or private source or otherwise made available to the  
18 Board for the purpose of supporting community initiatives that are  
19 consistent with the goals of the Oklahoma Partnership for School  
20 Readiness Act and direct such other expenditures as may be necessary  
21 in the performance of its duties;

22 2. Establish other guidelines as necessary to carry out the  
23 duties and responsibilities assigned to the Oklahoma Partnership for  
24 School Readiness Board;

1        3. Receive funds from any public or private source;

2        4. Enter into contractual agreements to assist with the  
3 administration of the Board and to provide technical assistance to  
4 communities upon request;

5        5. Appoint subcommittees which may include persons who are not  
6 Board members. Such persons shall not be entitled to compensation  
7 but may be reimbursed, upon approval by the Director of the  
8 Department of Human Services, for necessary expenses incurred in the  
9 performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel  
10 Reimbursement Act; and

11       6. The Board shall ensure, to the greatest extent possible,  
12 that the needs and values of all parents are respected and protected  
13 and that voluntary participation is the basis for delivering all  
14 school readiness programs. The Board shall act in ways which are  
15 sensitive to the diverse religious and other values of Oklahomans.

16       B. The responsibilities of the Oklahoma Partnership for School  
17 Readiness Board shall be to:

18       1. Conduct a thorough assessment of existing public and private  
19 programs to determine their effectiveness and to maximize the  
20 efficient use of current state funds;

21       2. Implement a public engagement campaign and establish a  
22 structure to facilitate communication between communities;  
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24

1        3. Provide leadership at the state level to encourage  
2 communities to develop and improve school readiness opportunities at  
3 the local level to encourage and empower local communities;

4        4. Encourage public and private programs, services, and  
5 initiatives be brought together to provide coordinated, community-  
6 based, effective and cost-efficient programs;

7        5. Maximize the extent to which private sector funding is  
8 leveraged and federal, state, and local funds are coordinated with  
9 private funds;

10       6. Serve as the administrator of the statewide child care  
11 resource and referral network;

12       7. Serve as the state clearinghouse for early childhood  
13 education and development programs and services;

14       8. Establish standards of accountability in school readiness  
15 programs and policy and recognize and promote the best practices;  
16 and

17       ~~7.~~ 9. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the  
18 Legislature no later than November 1 of each year. The report shall  
19 include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 20           a. preparedness level of children entering kindergarten,
- 21           b. status and results of the effort of the Board to
- 22           engage the public regarding the care and education of
- 23           children under the age of five (5) years and of the
- 24

- 1                   efforts of the Board to develop and promote private  
2                   sector programs and voluntary parental involvement,  
3           c.   detailed summary of community initiatives and programs  
4                   funded in whole, or in part, by the Board,  
5           d.   availability and cost of quality child care for  
6                   children under five (5) years of age needing care  
7                   outside their home,  
8           e.   number, location, and status of quality  
9                   prekindergarten programs in the state, and  
10          f.   percentage of third-grade students reading at or above  
11                   grade level.

12           C.   The Department of Human Services shall be the lead public  
13 agency for general administration and monitoring of programs and  
14 activities related to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness  
15 Act.

16           D.   Each of the following agencies shall make staff available to  
17 the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board for the purpose  
18 of providing professional consultation and staff support to assist  
19 in the implementation of this act:

- 20           1.   State Department of Education;  
21           2.   State Department of Health;  
22           3.   Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;  
23           4.   Department of Human Services; and  
24           5.   Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

Passed the Senate the 21st day of March, 2022.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2022.

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives