

**SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

March 23, 2021

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 and Stephens 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.

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 11-103.2a of Title 70, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

3       B. It is the intention of the Oklahoma State Legislature  
4 through this act to focus on the importance of child-centered, play-  
5 based learning as the most rigorous and most developmentally  
6 appropriate way for children in the early childhood grade levels to  
7 learn literacy, science, technology, engineering, art and math  
8 academic concepts.

9       C. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

22       6. "Professional development" means any of a wide variety of  
23 specialized training, formal education or advanced professional  
24 learning intended to help administrators, teachers and other

1 educators improve their professional knowledge, competence, skill  
2 and effectiveness;

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

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

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

23 E. In support of play-based learning in Oklahoma public  
24 schools, school districts may provide ongoing early childhood

1 professional development for early childhood educators and  
2 administrators, which may include existing early childhood  
3 professional development programs from the State Department of  
4 Education.

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

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

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
12 March 23, 2021 - DO PASS  
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