

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 12, 2022

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
5 BILL NO. 2991

6 By: West (Rick), Kerbs,  
7 Crosswhite Hader, and Boles  
8 of the House

9 and

10 Allen of the Senate

11 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
12 Section 1-111, which relates to school days;  
13 requiring students be given excused absences for  
14 participating in approved 4-H activities; **subjecting**  
15 **excused absences to certain policies**; directing 4-H  
16 educator to provide proof of participation upon  
17 request; requiring student be given opportunity to  
18 make up missed schoolwork; prohibiting class grades  
19 from being adversely affected; providing exception  
20 for certain absences; and providing an effective  
21 date.

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

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-111, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 Section 1-111. A. Except as otherwise provided for by law, a  
26 school day shall consist of not less than six (6) hours devoted to  
27 school activities. A district board of education may elect to  
28 extend the length of one (1) or more school days to more than six  
29 (6) hours and reduce the number of school days as long as the total  
30 amount of classroom instruction time is not less than one thousand

1 eighty (1,080) hours per year as required pursuant to Section 1-109  
2 of this title.

3 B. A school day for nursery, early childhood education,  
4 kindergarten, and alternative education programs shall be as  
5 otherwise defined by law or as defined by the State Board of  
6 Education. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, not  
7 more than one (1) school day shall be counted for attendance  
8 purposes in any twenty-four-hour period. Two (2) school days, each  
9 consisting of not less than six (6) hours, may be counted for  
10 attendance purposes in any twenty-four-hour period only if one of  
11 the school days is for the purpose of parent-teacher conferences  
12 held as provided for in Section 1-109 of this title.

13 C. ~~Students~~ Except as provided in subsection D of this section,  
14 students absent from school in which they are regularly enrolled may  
15 be considered as being in attendance if the reason for such absence  
16 is to participate in scheduled school activities under the direction  
17 and supervision of a regular member of the faculty or to participate  
18 in an online course approved by the district board of education.  
19 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to provide for the  
20 implementation of supplemental online courses which shall include,  
21 but not be limited to, provisions addressing the following:

22 1. Criteria for student admissions eligibility;  
23  
24

1           2. A student admission process administered through the  
2 district of residence, which provides the ability for the student to  
3 enroll in individual courses;

4           3. A process by which students are not denied the opportunity  
5 to enroll in educationally appropriate courses by school districts.  
6 For the purposes of this section, "educationally appropriate" means  
7 any instruction that is not substantially a repeat of a course or  
8 portion of a course that the student has successfully completed,  
9 regardless of the grade of the student, and regardless of whether a  
10 course is similar to or identical to the instruction that is  
11 currently offered in the school district;

12           4. Creation of a system which provides ongoing enrollment  
13 access for students throughout the school year;

14           5. A grace period of fifteen (15) calendar days from the first  
15 day of an online course for student withdrawal from an online course  
16 without academic penalty;

17           6. Mastery of competencies for course completion rather than  
18 Carnegie units;

19           7. Student participation in extracurricular activities in  
20 accordance with school district eligibility rules and policies and  
21 any rules and policies of a private organization or association  
22 which provides the coordination, supervision, and regulation of the  
23 interscholastic activities and contests of schools;

24

1 8. Parent authorization for release of state test results to  
2 online course providers, on a form developed by the State Department  
3 of Education; and

4 9. A review process to identify and certify online course  
5 providers and a uniform payment processing system.

6 D. Except as provided in paragraph 3 of this subsection,  
7 students absent from school in which they are regularly enrolled  
8 shall be given an excused absence if the reason for such absence is  
9 to participate in scheduled 4-H activities or programs as approved  
10 by the county 4-H educator. **The number of excused absences allowed**  
11 **pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to a school district**  
12 **board of education's attendance policy.**

13 1. Upon request from a school principal or attendance officer,  
14 a 4-H educator shall provide documentation as proof of student  
15 participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H.

16 2. Students shall be given the opportunity to make up any  
17 schoolwork missed while they are participating in activities or  
18 programs sponsored by 4-H. Students shall not have their class  
19 grades adversely affected for lack of attendance or participation  
20 due to their participation in activities or programs sponsored by 4-  
21 H.

22 3. A school principal or his or her designee shall not credit a  
23 student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H  
24 with an excused absence if the participation occurs during:

1           a. the schedule established by the State Board of  
2           Education for the administration of statewide student  
3           assessments, or

4           b. any period of time for which the student has been  
5           disciplined, suspended, or expelled, if the terms of  
6           punishment would preclude the student from  
7           participating in an educational field trip or  
8           extracurricular activity.

9           E. Each district board of education shall adopt policies and  
10 procedures that conform to rules for online courses as adopted by  
11 the State Board. Such policies shall include criteria for approval  
12 of the course, the appropriateness of the course for a particular  
13 student, authorization for full-time students to enroll in online  
14 courses, and establishing fees or charges. No district shall be  
15 liable for payment of any fees or charges for any online course for  
16 a student who has not complied with the district's policies and  
17 procedures. School districts shall not deny students the  
18 opportunity to enroll in educationally appropriate courses and shall  
19 provide an admissions process which includes input from the student,  
20 the parent or guardian of the student, and school faculty.

21           ~~E.~~ F. Districts shall require students enrolled in online  
22 courses to participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act.  
23 Students participating in online courses from a remote site will be  
24 responsible for providing their own equipment and Internet access,

1 unless the district chooses to provide the equipment. Credit may  
2 not be granted for such courses except upon approval of the State  
3 Board of Education and the district board of education.

4 ~~F.~~ G. Districts may provide students with opportunities for  
5 blended instruction. "Blended instruction" shall mean a combination  
6 of brick-and-mortar learning and virtual learning environments that  
7 includes elements of a student's control over place, pace and path  
8 of learning. A student in blended instruction may work on virtual  
9 courses at home or at school in a blended flex lab but shall  
10 participate in at least one unit or set of competencies as defined  
11 by Section 11-103.6 of this title at a physical school building in a  
12 traditional classroom setting which is the academic equivalent of  
13 one (1) hour per day for each instructional day in the school year  
14 as defined by Section 1-109 of this title.

15 ~~G.~~ H. The school day for kindergarten may consist of six (6)  
16 hours devoted to school activities.

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

18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
19 April 12, 2022 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24