

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 22, 2022

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1408

By: Rosino of the Senate

4 and

5 Lawson of the House

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

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

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

16 Section 640.2. A. The Oklahoma Partnership for School
17 Readiness Board may:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- 1 2. Implement a public engagement campaign and establish a
2 structure to facilitate communication between communities;
- 3 3. Provide leadership at the state level to encourage
4 communities to develop and improve school readiness opportunities at
5 the local level to encourage and empower local communities;
- 6 4. Encourage public and private programs, services, and
7 initiatives be brought together to provide coordinated, community-
8 based, effective and cost-efficient programs;
- 9 5. Maximize the extent to which private sector funding is
10 leveraged and federal, state, and local funds are coordinated with
11 private funds;
- 12 6. Serve as the administrator of the statewide child care
13 resource and referral network;
- 14 7. Serve as the state clearinghouse for early childhood
15 education and development programs and services;
- 16 8. Establish standards of accountability in school readiness
17 programs and policy and recognize and promote the best practices;
18 and
- 19 ~~7.~~ 9. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the
20 Legislature no later than November 1 of each year. The report shall
21 include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 22 a. preparedness level of children entering kindergarten,
23 b. status and results of the effort of the Board to
24 engage the public regarding the care and education of

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

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

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

- 21 1. State Department of Education;
- 22 2. State Department of Health;
- 23 3. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;
- 24 4. Department of Human Services; and

1 5. Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.

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

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
4 February 22, 2022 - DO PASS
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