

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 3655

By: Sterling

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6, which relates to subject matter standards; including agricultural power and technology in fine arts curriculum; adding agricultural power and technology in arts core curriculum; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.6 A. 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt subject matter standards for instruction of students in the public schools of this state that are necessary to ensure there is attainment of desired levels of competencies in a variety of areas to include language, mathematics, science, social studies and communication.

2. School districts shall develop and implement curriculum, courses and instruction in order to ensure that students meet the

1 skills and competencies as set forth in this section and in the  
2 subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

3 3. All students shall gain literacy at the elementary and  
4 secondary levels. Students shall develop skills in reading,  
5 writing, speaking, computing and critical thinking. For purposes of  
6 this section, critical thinking means a manner of analytical  
7 thinking which is logical and uses linear factual analysis to reach  
8 a conclusion. They also shall learn about cultures and environments  
9 - their own and those of others with whom they share the earth.  
10 Students, therefore, shall study social studies, literature,  
11 languages, the arts, mathematics and science. Such curricula shall  
12 provide for the teaching of a hands-on career exploration program in  
13 cooperation with technology center schools.

14 4. The subject matter standards shall be designed to teach the  
15 competencies for which students shall be tested as provided in  
16 Section 1210.508 of this title, and shall be designed to prepare all  
17 students for active citizenship, employment and/or successful  
18 completion of postsecondary education without the need for remedial  
19 coursework at the postsecondary level.

20 5. The subject matter standards shall be designed with rigor as  
21 defined in paragraph 3 of subsection G of this section.

22 6. The subject matter standards for English Language Arts shall  
23 give Classic Literature and nonfiction literature equal  
24

1 consideration to other literature. In addition, emphasis shall be  
2 given to the study of complete works of literature.

3 7. At a minimum, the subject matter standards for mathematics  
4 shall require mastery of the standard algorithms in mathematics,  
5 which is the most logical, efficient way of solving a problem that  
6 consistently works, and for students to attain fluency in Euclidian  
7 geometry.

8 8. The subject matter standards for history, social studies and  
9 United States Government shall include study of important historical  
10 documents, including the United States Constitution, Declaration of  
11 Independence, Emancipation Proclamation, Federalist Papers and other  
12 documents with significant history and heritage of the United  
13 States, and the content of the United States naturalization test,  
14 with an emphasis on the specific content of the test and the ideas  
15 and concepts it references. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school  
16 year, the United States naturalization test shall be administered in  
17 accordance with subsection F of this section.

18 9. The subject matter standards for United States Government  
19 shall include an emphasis on civics, the structure and relationship  
20 between the national, state, county and local governments and  
21 simulations of the democratic process. For the purposes of this  
22 section, "civics" means the study of the rights and duties of  
23 Oklahoma and United States citizens and of how those governments  
24 work.

1       B. Subject to the provisions of subsection C of this section,  
2 in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the  
3 State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students shall  
4 complete the following college preparatory/work ready curriculum  
5 units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

6       1. Four units or sets of competencies of English to include  
7 Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course approved for  
8 college admission requirements;

9       2. Three units or sets of competencies of mathematics, limited  
10 to Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis,  
11 Calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics, or any mathematics course  
12 with content and/or rigor above Algebra I and approved for college  
13 admission requirements;

14       3. Three units or sets of competencies of laboratory science  
15 approved for college admission requirements, including one unit or  
16 set of competencies of life science, meeting the standards for  
17 Biology I; one unit or set of competencies of physical science,  
18 meeting the standards for Physical Science, Chemistry or Physics;  
19 and one unit or set of competencies from the domains of physical  
20 science, life science or earth and space science such that the  
21 content and rigor is above Biology I or Physical Science;

22       4. Three units or sets of competencies of history and  
23 citizenship skills, including one unit of American History, one-half  
24 unit of Oklahoma History, one-half unit of United States Government

1 and one unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography,  
2 Economics, Civics, or non-Western culture and approved for college  
3 admission requirements;

4 5. Two units or sets of competencies of the same foreign or  
5 non-English language or two units of computer technology approved  
6 for college admission requirements, whether taught at a high school  
7 or a technology center school, including computer programming,  
8 hardware, and business computer applications, such as word  
9 processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding  
10 keyboarding or typing courses;

11 6. One additional unit or set of competencies selected from  
12 paragraphs 1 through 5 of this subsection or career and technology  
13 education courses, concurrently enrolled courses, Advanced Placement  
14 courses or International Baccalaureate courses approved for college  
15 admission requirements; and

16 7. One unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music,  
17 art, or drama, ~~or~~ one unit or set of competencies of speech, or one  
18 unit or set of competencies of agricultural power and technology  
19 offered by a career and technology education program.

20 C. In lieu of the requirements of subsection B of this section  
21 which requires a college preparatory/work ready curriculum, a  
22 student may enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection  
23 D of this section upon written approval of the parent or legal  
24 guardian of the student. For students under the age of eighteen

(18) school districts shall require a parent or legal guardian of the student to meet with a designee of the school prior to enrollment in the core curriculum. The State Department of Education shall develop and distribute to school districts a form suitable for this purpose, which shall include information on the benefits to students of completing the college preparatory/work ready curriculum as provided for in subsection B of this section.

D. For those students subject to the requirements of subsection C of this section, in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students shall complete the following core curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

1. Language Arts - Four units or sets of competencies, to consist of one unit or set of competencies of grammar and composition, and three units or sets of competencies which may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- a. American Literature,
- b. English Literature,
- c. World Literature,
- d. Advanced English Courses, or
- e. other English courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above grammar and composition;

2. Mathematics - Three units or sets of competencies, to consist of one unit or set of competencies of Algebra I or Algebra I

1 taught in a contextual methodology, and two units or sets of  
2 competencies which may include, but are not limited to, the  
3 following courses:

- 4 a. Algebra II,
- 5 b. Geometry or Geometry taught in a contextual  
6 methodology,
- 7 c. Trigonometry,
- 8 d. Math Analysis or Precalculus,
- 9 e. Calculus,
- 10 f. Statistics and/or Probability,
- 11 g. Computer Science or acceptance and successful  
12 completion of one (1) year of a full-time, three-hour  
13 career and technology program leading to an industry  
14 credential/certificate or college credit. The State  
15 Board of Career and Technology Education shall  
16 promulgate rules to define the provisions of this act  
17 related to the accepted industry-valued credentials  
18 which are industry-endorsed or industry-aligned. The  
19 list of accepted industry-valued credentials shall be  
20 reviewed annually and updated at least every three (3)  
21 years by the Board,
- 22 h. (1) contextual mathematics courses which enhance  
23 technology preparation, or

1           (2) a science, technology, engineering and math  
2           (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for  
3           course competencies listed in paragraph 2 of  
4           subsection B of this section, whether taught at  
5           a:

6           (a) comprehensive high school, or

7           (b) technology center school when taken in the  
8           tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by  
9           a certified teacher, and approved by the  
10          State Board of Education and the independent  
11          district board of education,

12          i. mathematics courses taught at a technology center  
13          school by a teacher certified in the secondary subject  
14          area when taken in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth  
15          grade upon approval of the State Board of Education  
16          and the independent district board of education, or

17          j. any other mathematics course with content and/or rigor  
18          equal to or above Algebra I;

19          3. Science - Three units or sets of competencies, to consist of  
20          one unit or set of competencies of Biology I or Biology I taught in  
21          a contextual methodology, and two units or sets of competencies in  
22          the areas of life, physical, or earth science or technology which  
23          may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

24          a. Chemistry I,



- b. Physics,
- c. Biology II,
- d. Chemistry II,
- e. Physical Science,
- f. Earth Science,
- g. Botany,
- h. Zoology,
- i. Physiology,
- j. Astronomy,
- k. Applied Biology/Chemistry,
- l. Applied Physics,
- m. Principles of Technology,
- n. qualified agricultural education courses,
- o. (1) contextual science courses which enhance  
technology preparation, or  
(2) a science, technology, engineering and math  
(STEM) block course meeting the requirements for  
course competencies listed in paragraph 3 of  
subsection B of this section, whether taught at  
a:
  - (a) comprehensive high school, or
  - (b) technology center school when taken in the  
tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by  
a certified teacher, and approved by the

1 State Board of Education and the independent  
2 district board of education,

- 3 p. science courses taught at a technology center school  
4 by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area  
5 when taken in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade  
6 upon approval of the State Board of Education and the  
7 independent district board of education, or  
8 q. other science courses with content and/or rigor equal  
9 to or above Biology I;

10 4. Social Studies - Three units or sets of competencies, to  
11 consist of one unit or set of competencies of United States History,  
12 one-half to one unit or set of competencies of United States  
13 Government, one-half unit or set of competencies of Oklahoma  
14 History, and one-half to one unit or set of competencies which may  
15 include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 16 a. World History,  
17 b. Geography,  
18 c. Economics,  
19 d. Anthropology, or  
20 e. other social studies courses with content and/or rigor  
21 equal to or above United States History, United States  
22 Government, and Oklahoma History;  
23  
24

1        5. Arts - One unit or set of competencies which may include,  
2 but is not limited to, courses in Visual Arts ~~and~~, General Music, or  
3 agricultural power and technology; and

4        6. Computer Education or World Language - One unit or set of  
5 competencies of computer technology, whether taught at a high school  
6 or a technology center school, including computer programming,  
7 hardware and business computer applications, such as word  
8 processing, databases, spreadsheets and graphics, excluding  
9 keyboarding or typing courses, or one unit or set of competencies of  
10 foreign or non-English language.

11        E. 1. In addition to the curriculum requirements of either  
12 subsection B or D of this section, in order to graduate from a  
13 public high school accredited by the State Board of Education  
14 students shall complete the requirements for a personal financial  
15 literacy passport as set forth in the Passport to Financial Literacy  
16 Act and any additional course requirements or recommended elective  
17 courses as may be established by the State Board of Education and  
18 the district school board. School districts shall strongly  
19 encourage students to complete two units or sets of competencies of  
20 foreign languages and two units or sets of competencies of physical  
21 and health education.

22        2. No student shall receive credit for high school graduation  
23 more than once for completion of the same unit or set of  
24 competencies to satisfy the curriculum requirements of this section.

1        3. A school district shall not be required to offer every  
2 course listed in subsections B and D of this section, but shall  
3 offer sufficient courses to allow a student to meet the graduation  
4 requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

5        F. 1. In addition to the curriculum requirements of either  
6 subsection B or D of this section, beginning with ninth graders in  
7 the 2021-22 school year, in order to graduate from a public high  
8 school accredited by the State Board of Education, students shall  
9 pass the United States naturalization test pursuant to the  
10 provisions of this subsection.

11        2. School districts shall offer the United States  
12 naturalization test to students at least once per school year,  
13 beginning as early as eighth grade at the discretion of the school  
14 district; provided, any student may retake the exam upon request,  
15 and as often as desired, until earning a passing score. For  
16 purposes of this subsection, a passing score shall be 60 out of 100  
17 questions.

18        3. School districts shall exempt students with disabilities  
19 whose individualized education program (IEP), consistent with state  
20 law, indicates that the student is to be assessed with alternate  
21 achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment  
22 Program (OAAP).

23        G. For purposes of this section:  
24

1        1. "Contextual methodology" means academic content and skills  
2 taught by utilizing real-world problems and projects in a way that  
3 helps students understand the application of that knowledge;

4        2. "Qualified agricultural education courses" means courses  
5 that have been determined by the State Board of Education to offer  
6 the sets of competencies for one or more science content areas and  
7 which correspond to academic science courses. Qualified  
8 agricultural education courses shall include, but are not limited  
9 to, Horticulture, Plant and Soil Science, Natural Resources and  
10 Environmental Science, and Animal Science. The courses shall be  
11 taught by teachers certified in agricultural education and comply  
12 with all rules of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology  
13 Education;

14        3. "Rigor" means a level of difficulty that is thorough,  
15 exhaustive and accurate and is appropriate for the grade level;

16        4. "Sets of competencies" means instruction in those skills and  
17 competencies that are specified in the subject matter standards  
18 adopted by the State Board of Education and other skills and  
19 competencies adopted by the Board, without regard to specified  
20 instructional time; and

21        5. "Unit" means a Carnegie Unit as defined by the North Central  
22 Association's Commission on Schools.

23        H. 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt a plan to  
24 ensure that rigor is maintained in the content, teaching

1 methodology, level of expectations for student achievement, and  
2 application of learning in all the courses taught to meet the  
3 graduation requirements as specified in this section.

4       2. The State Board of Education shall allow as much flexibility  
5 at the district level as is possible without diminishing the rigor  
6 or undermining the intent of providing these courses. To accomplish  
7 this purpose, the State Department of Education shall work with  
8 school districts in reviewing and approving courses taught by  
9 districts that are not specifically listed in subsections B and D of  
10 this section. Options may include, but shall not be limited to,  
11 courses taken by concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, or  
12 correspondence, or courses bearing different titles.

13       3. The State Board of Education shall approve an advanced  
14 placement computer science course to meet the requirements of course  
15 competencies listed in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section  
16 if the course is taken in a student's senior year and the student is  
17 concurrently enrolled in or has successfully completed Algebra II.

18       4. Technology center school districts may offer programs  
19 designed in cooperation with institutions of higher education which  
20 have an emphasis on a focused field of career study upon approval of  
21 the State Board of Education and the independent district board of  
22 education. Students in the tenth grade may be allowed to attend  
23 these programs for up to one-half (1/2) of a school day and credit  
24 for the units or sets of competencies required in paragraphs 2, 3

1 and 6 of subsection B or D of this section shall be given if the  
2 courses are taught by a teacher certified in the secondary subject  
3 area; provided, credit for units or sets of competencies pursuant to  
4 subsection B of this section shall be approved for college admission  
5 requirements.

6 5. If a student enrolls in a concurrent course, the school  
7 district shall not be responsible for any costs incurred for that  
8 course, unless the school district does not offer enough course  
9 selection during the student's secondary grade years to allow the  
10 student to receive the courses needed to meet the graduation  
11 requirements of this section. If the school district does not offer  
12 the necessary course selection during the student's secondary grade  
13 years, it shall be responsible for the cost of resident tuition at  
14 an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
15 fees, and books for the concurrent enrollment course, and providing  
16 for transportation to and from the institution to the school site.

17 It is the intent of the Legislature that for students enrolled  
18 in a concurrent enrollment course which is paid for by the school  
19 district pursuant to this paragraph, the institution charge only the  
20 supplementary and special service fees that are directly related to  
21 the concurrent enrollment course and enrollment procedures for that  
22 student. It is further the intent of the Legislature that fees for  
23 student activities and student service facilities, including the  
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1 student health care and cultural and recreational service fees, not  
2 be charged to such students.

3 6. Credit for the units or sets of competencies required in  
4 subsection B or D of this section shall be given when such units or  
5 sets of competencies are taken prior to ninth grade if the teachers  
6 are certified or authorized to teach the subjects for high school  
7 credit and the required rigor is maintained.

8 7. The three units or sets of competencies in mathematics  
9 required in subsection B or D of this section shall be completed in  
10 the ninth through twelfth grades. If a student completes any  
11 required courses or sets of competencies in mathematics prior to  
12 ninth grade, the student may take any other mathematics courses or  
13 sets of competencies to fulfill the requirement to complete three  
14 units or sets of competencies in grades nine through twelve after  
15 the student has satisfied the requirements of subsection B or D of  
16 this section.

17 8. All units or sets of competencies required for graduation  
18 may be taken in any sequence recommended by the school district.

19 I. As a condition of receiving accreditation from the State  
20 Board of Education, all students in grades nine through twelve shall  
21 enroll in a minimum of six periods, or the equivalent in block  
22 scheduling or other scheduling structure that allows for instruction  
23 in sets of competencies, of rigorous academic and/or rigorous  
24



1 vocational courses each day, which may include arts, vocal and  
2 instrumental music, speech classes, and physical education classes.

3 J. 1. Academic and vocational-technical courses designed to  
4 offer sets of competencies integrated or embedded within the courses  
5 that provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills  
6 and knowledge in the subject matter standards, as adopted by the  
7 State Board of Education, may, upon approval of the Board, in  
8 consultation with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology  
9 Education if the courses are offered at a technology center school  
10 district, be counted for academic credit and toward meeting the  
11 graduation requirements of this section.

12 2. Internet-based courses offered by a technology center school  
13 that are taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching  
14 and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject  
15 matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education  
16 and the independent district board of education, be counted for  
17 academic credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of  
18 this section.

19 3. Internet-based courses or vocational-technical courses  
20 utilizing integrated or embedded skills for which no subject matter  
21 standards have been adopted by the State Board of Education may be  
22 approved by the Board, in consultation with the Oklahoma Department  
23 of Career and Technology Education if the courses are offered at a  
24 technology center school district, if such courses incorporate

standards of nationally recognized professional organizations and are taught by certified teachers.

4. Courses offered by a supplemental education organization that is accredited by a national accrediting body and that are taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education and the school district board of education, be counted for academic credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of this section.

K. The State Board of Education shall provide an option for high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the amount of course credits earned.

L. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt and approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of specified levels of competencies in each area of the core curriculum.

M. Children who have individualized education programs pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and who satisfy the graduation requirements through the individualized education program for that student shall be awarded a standard diploma.

1 N. Students who enter the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-  
2 08 school year who are enrolled in an alternative education program  
3 and meet the requirements of their plans leading to high school  
4 graduation developed pursuant to Section 1210.568 of this title  
5 shall be awarded a standard diploma.

6 O. Any student who completes the curriculum requirements of the  
7 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be awarded a  
8 standard diploma.

9 P. Any student who successfully completes an advanced  
10 mathematics or science course offered pursuant to Section 1210.404  
11 of this title shall be granted academic credit toward meeting the  
12 graduation requirements pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3, as  
13 appropriate, of subsection B or D of this section.

14 Q. For purposes of this section, the courses approved for  
15 college admission requirements shall be courses which are approved  
16 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for admission to  
17 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

18 R. Students who have been denied a standard diploma by the  
19 school district in which the student is or was enrolled for failing  
20 to meet the requirements of this section may re-enroll in the school  
21 district that denied the student a standard diploma following the  
22 denial of a standard diploma. The student shall be provided  
23 remediation or intervention and the opportunity to complete the  
24 curriculum units or sets of competencies required by this section to

1 obtain a standard diploma. Students who re-enroll in the school  
2 district to meet the graduation requirements of this section shall  
3 be exempt from the hourly instructional requirements of Section 1-  
4 111 of this title and the six-period enrollment requirements of this  
5 section.

6 S. The State Department of Education shall collect and report  
7 data by school site and district on the number of students who  
8 enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection D of this  
9 section.

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

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