

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 HOUSE BILL 3657

By: Sterling

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to students; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
8 Section 1-111, which relates to the school day;  
9 directing certain student absences to be considered  
10 in attendance; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section  
11 1210.528-1, which relates to student apprenticeship,  
internship, and mentorship programs; permitting  
12 programs to occur during nontraditional school hours;  
13 permitting program to be paid or unpaid; and  
14 providing an effective date.

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

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

18 Section 1-111. A. Except as otherwise provided for by law, a  
19 school day shall consist of not less than six (6) hours devoted to  
20 school activities. A district board of education may elect to  
21 extend the length of one (1) or more school days to more than six  
22 (6) hours and reduce the number of school days as long as the total  
23 amount of classroom instruction time is not less than one thousand  
24 eighty (1,080) hours per year as required pursuant to Section 1-109  
of this title.

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

11 C. Students absent from school in which they are regularly  
12 enrolled may be considered as being in attendance if the reason for  
13 such absence is to participate in scheduled school activities under  
14 the direction and supervision of a regular member of the faculty, to  
15 participate in an apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship as  
16 provided in Section 1210.528-1 of this title, or to participate in  
17 an online course approved by the district board of education. The  
18 State Board of Education shall adopt rules to provide for the  
19 implementation of supplemental online courses which shall include,  
20 but not be limited to, provisions addressing the following:

- 21 1. Criteria for student admissions eligibility;
- 22 2. A student admission process administered through the  
23 district of residence, which provides the ability for the student to  
24 enroll in individual courses;

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

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

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

14           6. Mastery of competencies for course completion rather than  
15 Carnegie units;

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

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

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

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

15       E. Districts shall require students enrolled in online courses  
16 to participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act. Students  
17 participating in online courses from a remote site will be  
18 responsible for providing their own equipment and Internet access,  
19 unless the district chooses to provide the equipment. Credit may  
20 not be granted for such courses except upon approval of the State  
21 Board of Education and the district board of education.

22       F. Districts may provide students with opportunities for  
23 blended instruction. "Blended instruction" shall mean a combination  
24 of brick-and-mortar learning and virtual learning environments that

1 includes elements of a student's control over place, pace and path  
2 of learning. A student in blended instruction may work on virtual  
3 courses at home or at school in a blended flex lab but shall  
4 participate in at least one unit or set of competencies as defined  
5 by Section 11-103.6 of this title at a physical school building in a  
6 traditional classroom setting which is the academic equivalent of  
7 one (1) hour per day for each instructional day in the school year  
8 as defined by Section 1-109 of this title.

9 G. The school day for kindergarten may consist of six (6) hours  
10 devoted to school activities.

11 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.528-1,  
12 is amended to read as follows:

13 Section 1210.528-1 A. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school  
14 year, the governing body of each public, private, magnet, charter or  
15 virtual charter school in this state (the school) is authorized to  
16 enter into an agreement with private or public organizations for the  
17 purpose of creating apprenticeship, internship and mentorship  
18 programs. Apprenticeships, internships and mentorships may be  
19 available to high school sophomores age sixteen (16) or older,  
20 juniors and seniors as permitted by each school. The  
21 apprenticeship, internship or mentorship may fill the requirement of  
22 elective courses as the student's schedule permits. A student may  
23 not use the apprenticeship, internship or mentorship to replace any  
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1 other state education requirement, except as provided for in  
2 subsection D of this section.

3 B. The governing body of each school shall have the authority  
4 to adopt policies regarding the creation of apprenticeships,  
5 internships and mentorships that include the registration and  
6 qualifications for private or public organizations to participate in  
7 the apprenticeship, internship or mentorship program. The  
8 apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship program:

9 1. May occur during nontraditional school hours including, but  
10 not limited to, evenings, weekends, school holidays, and during the  
11 summer by mutual agreement of the student and the school; and

12 2. May be paid or unpaid.

13 C. 1. The governing body of each school may obtain liability  
14 insurance coverage to protect a student who participates in an  
15 apprenticeship, internship or mentorship program authorized by this  
16 section. The coverage authorized by this subsection shall be  
17 obtained from a reliable insurer authorized to do business in this  
18 state and shall not exceed the amount that is deemed reasonably  
19 necessary in the opinion of the governing body of each school.

20 2. The governing body of a school may not directly or  
21 indirectly charge a student or the student's parent or legal  
22 guardian for the cost of providing insurance coverage pursuant to  
23 this subsection.

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1           3. The failure of a governing body to obtain insurance coverage  
2 authorized by this subsection or to obtain a specific amount of  
3 coverage may not be construed as placing any legal liability on the  
4 governing body of the school.

5           D. The State Board of Education may develop rules to determine  
6 if apprenticeships, internships and mentorships established pursuant  
7 to this section are eligible for academic credit toward meeting the  
8 graduation requirements set forth in Section 11-103.6 of this title.

9           SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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