

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 4011

By: Hasenbeck

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 18-113.1, 18-113.2, and 18-113.3, which relate to class size; removing exception from elementary class size penalty for school districts which meet certain indebtedness criteria; deleting exception from kindergarten class size penalty for school districts which meet certain indebtedness criteria; striking exception from secondary class size penalty for school districts which meet certain indebtedness criteria; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 18-113.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 18-113.1 A. The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to grades one through three.

1. Except as otherwise provided for in this section, no child shall be included in the average daily membership of a school district for the purpose of computing and paying state-appropriated funds if that child is regularly assigned to a teacher or to a class that includes more than twenty (20) students.

1 2. If a class or classes in a grade exceed the class size
2 limitation provided for in this subsection, the class size
3 limitation and penalty shall not apply if:

4 a. the creation of an additional class would cause a
5 class to have fewer than ten (10) students; and

6 b. a teacher's assistant, as defined in Section 6-127 of
7 this title, is employed to serve with each teacher in
8 a class that exceeds the class size limitation
9 provided for in this subsection.

10 3. No school district shall be penalized for exceeding class
11 size limitations set forth in this subsection if the limitations are
12 exceeded beginning after the first nine (9) weeks of the school
13 year.

14 Any school district found to be in violation of the provisions
15 of this subsection shall receive a penalty in the State Aid formula
16 as a reduction to State Aid to be determined as follows:

17 a. Multiply each pupil in excess of the class size
18 membership limit as provided in this subsection by the
19 grade level weight and by the Base Foundation Support
20 Level for the current school year, and

21 b. Multiply each pupil in excess of the class size
22 membership limit as provided in this subsection by the
23 grade level weight and by the Incentive Aid guarantee
24 for the current school year times twenty (20), and

1 c. Sum the products of subparagraphs a and b of this
2 paragraph.

3 B. The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to grades
4 four through six.

5 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this section, no child
6 shall be included in the average daily membership of a school
7 district for the purpose of computing and paying state-appropriated
8 funds if that child is regularly assigned to a teacher or to a class
9 that includes more than twenty (20) students.

10 2. If a class or classes in a grade exceed the class size
11 limitation provided for in this subsection, the class size
12 limitation and penalty shall not apply if the creation of an
13 additional class would cause a class to have fewer than sixteen (16)
14 students.

15 3. No school district shall be penalized for exceeding class
16 size limitations set forth in this subsection if the limitations are
17 exceeded beginning after the first nine (9) weeks of the school
18 year.

19 4. Any school district found to be in violation of the
20 provisions of this subsection shall receive a penalty in the State
21 Aid formula as a reduction to State Aid to be determined as follows:

22 a. Multiply each pupil in excess of the class size
23 membership limit as provided in this subsection by the
24

1 grade level weight and by the Base Foundation Support
2 Level for the current school year, and

3 b. Multiply each pupil in excess of the class size
4 membership limit as provided in this subsection by the
5 grade level weight and by the Incentive Aid guarantee
6 for the current school year times twenty (20), and

7 c. Sum the products of subparagraphs a and b of this
8 paragraph.

9 C. Classes in the following subjects shall not be subject to
10 the class size limitations provided for in subsections A and B of
11 this section:

12 1. Physical education; and

13 2. Chorus, band, orchestra and similar music classes.

14 D. If a school district groups its grades as grades one through
15 five, grades six through eight, and grades nine through twelve, then
16 as to such district the provisions of subsection B of this section
17 shall apply to grades four and five rather than grades four through
18 six, and the provisions of Section 18-113.3 of this title shall
19 apply to grades six through twelve.

20 E. Any violations of the provisions of this section shall
21 result in denial of accreditation in accordance with the
22 requirements of Section 3-104.4 of this title.

23 F. ~~Any school district which at the beginning of the school~~
24 ~~year does not have sufficient classrooms to meet the class size~~

~~limitation provided for in this section as determined by guidelines established by the State Board of Education shall not be penalized for failure to meet the class size limitations provided for in this section if:~~

~~a. the school district has voted indebtedness, at any time within the five (5) years preceding the year the district exceeds the class size limitations or during the year the district exceeds the class size limitations, through the issuance of bonds or approval by voters of issuance of new bonds for more than eighty five percent (85%) of the maximum allowable pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution as shown on the school district budget filed with the State Equalization Board for the current school year and certifications by the Attorney General prior to February 1 of the current school year; and~~

~~b. on the date of filing of the school district budget with the State Equalization Board, the school district is voting the maximum millage allowable for the support, maintenance and construction of schools as provided for in subsections (a), (c), (d) and (d-1) of Section 9 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution~~

1 ~~and Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma~~
2 ~~Constitution.~~

3 ~~G.~~ Any school district which exceeds the class size limitations
4 as set forth in this section shall submit a written report to the
5 State Board of Education, on or before July 1 of each year, setting
6 forth the procedures that the district will follow in order to
7 comply with this section.

8 ~~H.~~ G. School districts which receive state-appropriated funds
9 pursuant to the provisions of Section 18-112.2 of this title and do
10 not comply with the provisions of this section shall be subject to
11 loss of State Aid for each child in excess of the class size
12 limitations specified in this section.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 18-113.2, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 18-113.2 A. The provisions of this section shall apply
16 only to kindergarten.

17 1. No child shall be included in the average daily membership
18 of a school district for the purpose of computing and paying state-
19 appropriated funds if that child is regularly assigned to a teacher
20 or to a class that includes more than twenty (20) students.

21 2. If a class or classes in a grade exceed the class size
22 limitation provided for in this subsection, the class size
23 limitation and penalty shall not apply if:
24

- a. the creation of an additional class would cause a class to have fewer than ten (10) students; and
- b. a teacher's assistant, as defined in Section 6-127 of this title, is employed to serve with each teacher in a class that exceeds the class size limitation provided for in this subsection.

3. No school district shall be penalized for exceeding class size limitations set forth in this section if the limitations are exceeded beginning after the first nine (9) weeks of the school year.

~~4. Any school district which at the beginning of the school year does not have sufficient classrooms to meet the class size limitation provided for in this section as determined by guidelines established by the State Board of Education shall not be penalized for failure to meet the class size limitations provided for in this section if:~~

- ~~a. the school district has voted indebtedness, at any time within the five (5) years preceding the year the district exceeds the class size limitations or during the year the district exceeds the class size limitations, through the issuance of bonds or approval by voters of issuance of new bonds for more than eighty-five percent (85%) of the maximum allowable pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of Article X~~

~~of the Oklahoma Constitution as shown on the school district budget filed with the State Equalization Board for the current school year and certifications by the Attorney General prior to February 1 of the current school year; and~~

~~b. on the date of filing of the school district budget with the State Equalization Board, the school district is voting the maximum millage allowable for the support, maintenance and construction of schools as provided for in subsections (a), (c), (d) and (d-1) of Section 9 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution and Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.~~

~~5.~~ Any school district found to be in violation of the provisions of this subsection shall receive a penalty in the State Aid formula as a reduction to State Aid to be determined as follows:

- ~~a.~~ Multiply each pupil in excess of the class size membership limit as provided in this subsection by the grade level weight and by the Base Foundation Support Level for the current school year, and
- ~~b.~~ Multiply each pupil in excess of the class size membership limit as provided in this subsection by the grade level weight and by the Incentive Aid guarantee for the current school year times twenty (20), and

1 c. Sum the products of subparagraphs a and b of this
2 paragraph.

3 B. Any violations of the provisions of this section shall
4 result in denial of accreditation in accordance with the
5 requirements of Section 3-104.4 of this title.

6 C. School districts which receive state-appropriated funds
7 pursuant to the provisions of Section 18-112.2 of this title and do
8 not comply with the provisions of this section shall be subject to
9 loss of State Aid for each child in excess of the class size
10 limitations specified in this section.

11 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 18-113.3, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 18-113.3 A. Class size, as used in Section 18-113.1
14 and Section 18-113.2 of this title, shall be determined by the
15 average daily membership divided by the full-time equivalency of the
16 instructional staff assigned to each grade level by site. Full-time
17 equivalency of special education teachers, Chapter 1 teachers, and
18 teachers of classes not subject to class size limitations and the
19 average daily membership of self-contained special education classes
20 shall not be counted in class size computation.

21 B. As used in this section, self-contained special education
22 classes are those classes whose students attend the same class for
23 three (3) or more class periods and who have individualized
24 education plans.

1 C. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year and each school year
2 thereafter, no teacher who is counted in class size count for grades
3 seven through twelve shall be responsible for the instruction of
4 more than one hundred forty (140) students on any given six-hour
5 school day. Class size count shall be taken during the month of
6 October of each school year on a date set by the State Board of
7 Education. If the class size count is in excess of the limits set
8 forth in this subsection, the school district shall be subject to
9 the penalties provided for in this section.

10 D. Students within a class which is not subject to class size
11 limitations pursuant to subsection D of Section 18-113.1 of this
12 title shall not be counted for purposes of the limitations set forth
13 in subsection C of this section.

14 E. No school district shall be penalized for exceeding class
15 size limitations set forth in this section if the limitations are
16 exceeded beginning after the first nine (9) weeks of the school
17 year.

18 F. The first year that a school district exceeds the class size
19 membership limitation as established and computed in subsection C of
20 this section, the district shall receive as a penalty a reduction in
21 the State Aid for the district. For each child in excess of the
22 class size limitation, the reduction in State Aid to the district
23 shall be determined as follows:
24

1 1. Multiply the averaged number of the October class size count
2 of pupils which is in excess of the class size membership limit as
3 provided for in subsection C of this section by the grade weight and
4 by the Base Foundation Support Level for the current school year;

5 2. Multiply the averaged number of the October class size count
6 of pupils which is in excess of the class size membership limit as
7 provided for in subsection C of this section by the grade level
8 weight and by the Incentive Aid guarantee for the current school
9 year times twenty (20); and

10 3. Sum the products of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection.

11 G. If a school district exceeds the class size membership
12 limitation as established and computed in subsection C of this
13 section for two (2) consecutive years, the district shall receive as
14 a penalty denial of accreditation in accordance with the
15 requirements of Section 3-104.4 of this title.

16 H. For the purpose of determining whether a penalty for
17 exceeding class size limitations shall apply, a federally funded
18 bilingual assistant shall not qualify as a teacher's assistant.

19 I. ~~Any school district which at the beginning of the school~~
20 ~~year does not have sufficient classrooms to meet the class size~~
21 ~~limitation provided for in this section as determined by guidelines~~
22 ~~established by the State Board of Education shall not be penalized~~
23 ~~for failure to meet the class size limitations provided for in this~~
24 ~~section if:~~

1 ~~1. The school district has voted indebtedness, at any time~~
2 ~~within the five (5) years preceding the year the district exceeds~~
3 ~~the class size limitations or during the year the district exceeds~~
4 ~~the class size limitations, through the issuance of bonds or~~
5 ~~approval by voters of issuance of new bonds for more than eighty-~~
6 ~~five percent (85%) of the maximum allowable pursuant to the~~
7 ~~provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution~~
8 ~~as shown on the school district budget filed with the State~~
9 ~~Equalization Board for the current school year and certifications by~~
10 ~~the Attorney General prior to February 1 of the current school year;~~
11 ~~and~~

12 ~~2. On the date of filing of the school district budget with the~~
13 ~~State Equalization Board, the school district is voting the maximum~~
14 ~~millage allowable for the support, maintenance and construction of~~
15 ~~schools as provided for in subsections (a), (c), (d) and (d-1) of~~
16 ~~Section 9 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution and Section 10~~
17 ~~of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.~~

18 ~~J.~~ Any school district which exceeds the class size limitations
19 as set forth in this section shall submit a written report to the
20 State Board of Education, on or before July 1 of each year, setting
21 forth the procedures that the district will follow in order to
22 comply with this section.

23 ~~K.~~ J. School districts which receive state-appropriated funds
24 pursuant to the provisions of Section 18-112.2 of this title and do

1 not comply with the provisions of this section shall be subject to
2 loss of State Aid for each child in excess of the class size
3 limitations as specified in this section.

4 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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