

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 1321

6 By: Seifried

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; creating the Let Them  
9 Learn Act; providing short title; directing the State  
10 Board of Education to establish certain pilot program  
11 to provide grants to certain schools to incentivize  
12 phone-free spaces; providing process for application;  
13 providing for selection of grant recipients;  
14 providing for use of grants; allowing the Board, in  
15 certain conjunction, to negotiate and enter into  
16 certain contract; requiring grant recipients to adopt  
17 certain policy; requiring grant recipients to submit  
18 certain reports; providing for contents of reports;  
19 requiring the Board to submit certain report by  
20 certain date; providing for codification; providing  
21 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

23 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
24 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-126 of Title 70, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Let Them  
Learn Act".

1 B. The State Board of Education shall establish a two-year  
2 pilot program to provide grants to public middle schools and high  
3 schools to incentivize phone-free spaces for student learning.

4 C. 1. A public school district seeking a grant to establish a  
5 phone-free space in a middle school or high school site shall apply  
6 to the State Board of Education in the manner and on a form  
7 prescribed by the Board.

8 2. From the applications submitted, the Board shall select  
9 fifteen (15) recipients as follows:

10 a. five school sites, which shall be middle schools or  
11 high schools, that each have an average daily  
12 membership (ADM) of fewer than five hundred (500)  
13 students,

14 b. five school sites, which shall be middle schools or  
15 high schools, that each have an ADM of five hundred  
16 (500) students or more but fewer than one thousand  
17 (1,000) students, and

18 c. five school sites, which shall be middle schools or  
19 high schools, that each have an ADM of one thousand  
20 (1,000) students or more students.

21 D. Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be used to  
22 purchase devices or equipment in which students enrolled in a grant  
23 recipient school site can store their cell phones during the school  
24 day. In conjunction with the Office of Management and Enterprise

1 Services, the State Board of Education may negotiate and enter into  
2 a contract with a vendor to offer a state rate price to grant  
3 recipient school sites; provided, however, a grant recipient school  
4 site shall not be required to use a vendor contracted by the State  
5 Board of Education.

6 E. School sites awarded grants pursuant to this section shall  
7 adopt a policy regarding emergency use of cell phones by students  
8 during the school day.

9 F. Upon completion of each year of the two-year pilot program,  
10 grant recipient school sites shall electronically submit a report to  
11 the State Board of Education that includes the following  
12 information:

13 1. An evaluation of the pilot program by recipient school site  
14 teachers and administrators including their perception on whether  
15 the program had an impact on student engagement in the classroom;

16 2. An evaluation of the pilot program by recipient school site  
17 students including their perception on whether the program had an  
18 impact on their ability to be engaged and learn in the classroom;

19 3. Academic performance data, disaggregated by grade level, for  
20 the students enrolled in recipient school sites over the two-year  
21 pilot program period; and

22 4. Recommendations, if any, for expanded program operations.

23 G. By December 31, 2026, the State Board of Education shall  
24 compile the information submitted pursuant to subsection F of this

1 section and electronically submit a report to the Governor, the  
2 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

5 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
6 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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