

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3913

By: Caldwell (Chad)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; directing the State Board of Education to establish certain pilot program grants to incentivize phone-free spaces; providing application process; prescribing selection of grant recipients; providing for use of grant funds; authorizing certain negotiations and contract; mandating grant recipients adopt certain policy; requiring grant recipients to submit certain report; providing for contents of grantee report; directing Board to compile information and submit report to certain elected officials by specified deadline; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-201 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education shall establish a one-year pilot program for the 2024-2025 school year to provide grants to public middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools to incentivize phone-free spaces for student learning.

1 B. 1. A public school district seeking a grant to establish a
2 phone-free space in a middle school, junior high school, or high
3 school site shall apply to the State Board of Education in the
4 manner and on a form prescribed by the Board.

5 2. After reviewing the applications submitted, the Board shall
6 select nine (9) grant recipients as follows:

7 a. three school sites, which shall be middle schools,
8 junior high schools, or high schools, that each have
9 an average daily membership (ADM) of fewer than five
10 hundred (500) students,

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

16 c. three school sites, which shall be middle schools,
17 junior high schools, or high schools, that each have
18 an ADM of one thousand five hundred (1,500) or more
19 students.

20 3. When selecting grant recipients pursuant to this subsection,
21 the Board shall attempt to select a variety of schools which are
22 broadly representative of schools in the state in terms of
23 geographic locations and student populations.
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1 C. The grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be used to
2 purchase devices or equipment in which students enrolled in a grant-
3 recipient school site can store their cell phones during the school
4 day. In conjunction with the Office of Management and Enterprise
5 Services, the State Board of Education may negotiate and contract
6 with a vendor to offer a state rate price to grant recipient school
7 sites.

8 D. School sites awarded grants pursuant to this section shall
9 adopt a policy regarding emergency use of cell phones by students
10 during the school day including, but not limited to, medical issues
11 documented by a licensed medical professional.

12 E. Upon completion of the pilot program, grant recipient school
13 sites shall electronically submit a report to the State Board of
14 Education that includes the following information:

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

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

21 3. Academic performance data, disaggregated by grade level, for
22 students who are enrolled in recipient school sites over the three-
23 year pilot program period; and

24 4. Recommendations, if any, for expanded program operations.
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1 F. By December 31, 2025, the State Board of Education shall
2 compile the information submitted pursuant to subsection E of this
3 section and electronically submit a report to the Governor, the
4 Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the President
5 Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate.

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

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

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