

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 4137

By: Swope

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; defining term; directing the State Board of Education to adopt information literacy subject matter standards; providing minimum requirements for standards; requiring school districts to incorporate instruction on standards; mandating school librarian be included in curriculum development; directing the State Department of Education to convene a committee to develop standards; prescribing qualifications of certain committee members; requiring review of developed standards by experts; mandating public hearings in three regions of the state to allow for public comment; 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 11-103.6q of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this section, "information literacy" means a set of skills that enables an individual to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed

1 information. Information literacy includes, but is not limited to,
2 digital, visual, media, textual, and technological literacy.

3 B. The State Board of Education shall adopt subject matter
4 standards in information literacy. The information literacy
5 standards shall include, at a minimum:

6 1. The research process and how information is created and
7 produced;

8 2. Critical thinking and using information resources;

9 3. Research methods, including the difference between primary
10 and secondary sources;

11 4. The difference between facts, points of view, and opinions;

12 5. Accessing peer-reviewed print and digital library resources;

13 6. The economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use
14 of information; and

15 7. The ethical production of information.

16 C. Each school district shall incorporate instruction on
17 information literacy in an appropriate place in the curriculum of
18 students in grades kindergarten through twelve. The school
19 librarian or library media specialist shall be included in the
20 development of information literacy curriculum whenever possible.

21 D. The State Department of Education shall convene a committee
22 comprised of educators, the majority of which shall include
23 certified school librarians or library media specialists, as well as
24 teaching staff members across a broad spectrum of subject areas, to
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1 develop information literacy standards that conform with the
2 requirements of subsection B of this section. The committee shall
3 engage experts to review the standards it develops.

4 E. Prior to adopting information literacy standards, the State
5 Board of Education shall conduct at least one public hearing in the
6 northern part of the state, at least one public hearing in the
7 central part of the state, and at least one public hearing in the
8 southern part of the state for the purpose of permitting the public
9 to comment on the rigor, clarity, and reasonableness of the
10 standards developed by the committee.

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

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

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