

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1794

By: Dahm

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating the Restore Common Sense in Education Act; providing short title; providing purpose; directing the State Department of Education to develop and make available certain resources to provide certain instruction; defining term; requiring media literacy to be taught in public schools beginning in certain school year; requiring instruction to emphasize certain topics; providing for promulgation of rules; 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 11-203 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 "Restore Common Sense in Education Act". The purpose of the act is to ensure that all students in this state are prepared with media literacy skills necessary to safely, responsibly, and critically consume and use news sources, social media, and other forms of media.

B. The State Department of Education shall develop and make available to public schools in this state resources for providing grade-appropriate instruction on media literacy to students. For

1 the purposes of this section, "media literacy" means the ability to
2 access, analyze, evaluate, create, and communicate using a variety
3 of objective forms including, but not limited to, print, visual,
4 audio, interactive, and digital texts.

5 C. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, media literacy
6 shall be taught to students in the public schools of this state as a
7 component of one or more existing courses of study. The instruction
8 provided pursuant to this section shall emphasize:

9 1. Evaluating media outlets;

10 2. Analyzing sources of information including the importance of
11 primary sources;

12 3. Analyzing and evaluating media messages including the
13 importance of distinguishing fact from opinion;

14 4. Analyzing and evaluating the bias and framing of leading
15 questions used by the media during interviews;

16 5. Analyzing and evaluating non-factual adjectives and
17 descriptions used by the media to generate bias toward specific
18 individuals or groups based on age, race, religion, sex, ideology,
19 or political affiliation;

20 6. Analyzing and evaluating selective statistics used by the
21 media to create a false narrative;

22 7. Analyzing and evaluating the amount of unbalanced negative
23 content created by the media to target specific individuals or
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1 groups based on age, race, religion, sex, ideology, or political
2 affiliation;

3 8. Analyzing and evaluating the deliberate suppression of
4 coverage by the media to protect specific individuals or groups
5 based on age, race, religion, sex, ideology, or political
6 affiliation; and

7 9. Analyzing and evaluating instances of individuals in the
8 media engaging in debate to push a narrative rather than performing
9 a neutral interview.

10 D. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to
11 implement the provisions of this section.

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

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

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