

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 24, 2026

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1632

By: Alvord

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6 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
7 Section 14-135, which relates to career-readiness
8 assessments; directing the State Department of
9 Education, rather than the Oklahoma Department of
10 Commerce, in certain cooperation to approve certain
11 assessments and credentials; removing language making
12 such approval subject to funding; directing the
13 assessments to be made available to students in
14 certain grades beginning in certain school year;
15 directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
16 Education in certain consultation to promulgate
17 certain rules; providing an effective date; and
18 declaring an emergency.

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

20 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-135, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 14-135. ~~Subject to the availability of funds, beginning~~
23 ~~with the 2019-2020 school year, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce,~~
24 ~~in cooperation with the~~

25 A. The State Department of Education and, in cooperation with
26 the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, shall
27 review and approve career-readiness assessments and assessment-based
28 credentials that measure and document foundational workplace skills.

1 Beginning with the ~~2019-2020~~ 2026-2027 school year, the assessments
2 shall be made available to all public school districts to be
3 administered ~~to students~~ at the discretion of each school district's
4 administration to students in grades ten through twelve at least
5 once prior to their graduation from high school. The assessment-
6 based credential shall be available to any student who achieves the
7 prescribed level on the required ~~assessments~~ assessment. If the
8 public school district chooses to administer the assessments, the
9 assessments shall be administered at least once to each student who
10 chooses to take the assessment at no cost to the student. The
11 assessments shall:

12 1. Be a standardized, criterion-referenced measure of broadly
13 relevant foundational workplace skills;

14 2. Assess and document student readiness for a wide range of
15 jobs;

16 3. Measure skills in the following areas, including, but not
17 limited to:

18 a. applied mathematics,

19 b. workplace documents,

20 c. graphic literacy, or

21 d. critical thinking and leadership collaboration;

22 4. Align with research-based skill requirement profiles for
23 specific industries and occupations;

24

1 5. Lead to nationally recognized work-readiness certificates or
2 credentials for students who meet the minimum proficiency
3 requirements on the component assessments; and

4 6. Be available in paper- and computer-based formats.

5 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, in
6 consultation with the American Council on Education National Guide,
7 shall promulgate rules to allow institutions of higher education
8 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to grant
9 college credit based on assessment-based credentials and scores
10 earned on career-readiness assessments.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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.

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
17 February 24, 2026 - DO PASS
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