

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1298

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to student assessments; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508, as last amended by Section 10, Chapter 492, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 1210.508), which relates to the statewide system of student assessments; directing the State Board of Education to issue certain request for proposals; directing the Board to adopt certain minimum number of alternative assessments; allowing assessments to measure certain readiness; directing the Board to provide school districts with certain alternative assessments for administration beginning in certain school year; prohibiting a student in certain grades with certain consent from being required to take certain assessment; requiring student in certain grades to take certain alternative assessment; modifying requirement for students to take certain assessment prior to graduation; updating statutory language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508, as last amended by Section 10, Chapter 492, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 1210.508), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508. A. 1. By no later than December 31, 2016, the State Board of Education shall adopt a statewide system of student assessments in compliance with the Elementary and Secondary

1 Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as reauthorized and amended by P.L.  
2 No. 114-95, also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

3 2. The statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board  
4 pursuant to this subsection shall be aligned with the Oklahoma  
5 Academic Standards as adopted by the Board and which prepare  
6 students for college and careers.

7 B. 1. The Board shall issue a request for proposals for the  
8 selection of assessments to be administered to students in grades  
9 three through twelve as a part of the statewide student assessment  
10 system adopted by the Board pursuant to this section.

11 2. After the effective date of this act, the Board shall issue  
12 a request for proposals for the selection of at least three  
13 alternative assessments that comply with the provisions of ESSA and  
14 fulfill the requirements of subsection E of this section that school  
15 districts may administer to students in ninth through twelfth  
16 grades. The alternative assessments may measure readiness for both  
17 college and postsecondary career training. A public school district  
18 in this state may recommend an assessment for the Board to review  
19 and consider for approval.

20 3. The Board shall adopt assessments from the selected  
21 proposals that were submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this  
22 subsection and shall adopt at least three alternative assessments  
23 from the selected proposals that were submitted pursuant to  
24 paragraph 2 of this subsection. The adopted assessments shall be

1 administered by the Board for a period that is in coordination with  
2 the six-year subject area textbook adoption cycle unless the vendor  
3 does not fulfill the terms of the contract or fails to comply with  
4 or violates the terms of the contract. The Board shall administer  
5 the assessments selected from proposals submitted pursuant to  
6 paragraph 1 of this subsection beginning with the 2017-2018 school  
7 year. The Board shall provide school districts with at least three  
8 alternative assessments selected from proposals submitted pursuant  
9 to paragraph 2 of this subsection that may be administered beginning  
10 with the 2026-2027 school year.

11 C. The statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board  
12 pursuant to this section shall include assessments that:

13 1. Are aligned with the Oklahoma subject matter standards as  
14 adopted by the Board;

15 2. Provide a measure of comparability among other states;

16 3. Yield both norm-referenced scores and criterion-referenced  
17 scores;

18 4. Have a track record of statistical reliability and accuracy;  
19 and

20 5. For assessments administered in high school, provide a  
21 measure of future academic performance.

22 D. For the 2016-2017 school year, the Board shall administer  
23 assessments in:

1        1. English Language Arts or reading and mathematics in grades  
2 three through eight and at least once in high school, during the  
3 grade span of nine through twelve;

4        2. Science not less than once during each grade span of three  
5 through five, six through nine, and ten through twelve; and

6        3. United States History not less than once during the grade  
7 span of nine through twelve.

8        E. 1. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the statewide  
9 student assessment system shall include assessments in:

10           a. English Language Arts and mathematics in grades three  
11 through eight and at least once in high school, during  
12 the grade span of nine through twelve,

13           b. science not less than once during each grade span of  
14 three through five, six through nine, and ten through  
15 twelve, and

16           c. United States History, with an emphasis on civics, not  
17 less than once during the grade span of nine through  
18 twelve.

19        2. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the statewide  
20 student assessment system may include:

21           a. assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics in  
22 certain grades as determined by the Board, and

23           b. contingent upon the availability of funds, an  
24 additional nationally recognized college- and career-

1 readiness assessment or assessments as recommended by  
2 the State Department of Education, which will be  
3 administered to students in high school at no cost to  
4 the student.

5 F. 1. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the  
6 2017-2018 school year, each student shall take the assessment or  
7 assessments included in the statewide student assessment system  
8 adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of this section in  
9 order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma.  
10 A student in ninth through twelfth grade shall not be required to  
11 take the assessment or assessments selected by the Board pursuant to  
12 paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section if:

13 a. the student's parent or legal guardian provides  
14 written consent to opt out; provided, however, the  
15 student shall be required to take an alternative  
16 assessment or assessments selected by the Board  
17 pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection B of this  
18 section, and

19 b. the student and his or her parent or legal guardian,  
20 in collaboration with school staff, determine that an  
21 alternative assessment is appropriate for the  
22 student's postsecondary goals.

1 All students shall take the assessment or assessments selected by  
2 the Board pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2 of subsection B of this  
3 section prior to graduation, unless otherwise exempt by law.

4 2. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the  
5 2017-2018 school year, each student, in addition to taking the  
6 assessment or assessments included in the statewide student  
7 assessment system adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of  
8 this section, shall meet any other high school graduation  
9 requirements adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled  
10 House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma  
11 Legislature in order to graduate from a public high school with a  
12 standard diploma.

13 3. For students who start the ninth grade prior to or during  
14 the 2016-2017 school year, school districts shall adopt a plan that  
15 establishes the assessment or assessments those students are  
16 required to take in order to graduate from a public high school with  
17 a standard diploma. The plan may also include any or all of the  
18 other high school graduation requirements adopted by the Board  
19 pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd  
20 Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature that those students will be  
21 required to meet in order to graduate from a public high school with  
22 a standard diploma.

23 4. The Board shall promulgate rules to ensure that students who  
24 transfer into ~~an Oklahoma~~ a school district in this state from out-

1 of-state after the junior year of high school shall not be denied  
2 the opportunity to be awarded a standard diploma due to differing  
3 testing requirements.

4 G. In order to provide an indication of the levels of  
5 competency attained by the student in a permanent record for  
6 potential future employers and institutions of higher education,  
7 school districts shall report on the high school transcript of the  
8 student the highest-achieved score on the assessment or assessments  
9 included in the statewide student assessment system adopted by the  
10 Board pursuant to subsection A of this section and any business- and  
11 industry-recognized endorsements attained.

12 H. Students who do not perform at a proficiency level on  
13 assessments shall be remediated as established in the assessment  
14 requirements adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled  
15 House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma  
16 Legislature, subject to the availability of funding.

17 I. 1. All assessments required by this section shall measure  
18 academic competencies in correlation with the subject matter  
19 standards adopted by the Board pursuant to Sections 11-103.6 and 11-  
20 103.6a of this title and referred to as the Oklahoma Academic  
21 Standards. The State Board of Education shall evaluate the subject  
22 matter standards to ensure the competencies reflect high standards,  
23 are specific, well-defined, measurable, and challenging, and will  
24 prepare elementary students for next-grade-level course work and

1 secondary students for postsecondary studies at institutions of  
2 higher education or technology center schools without the need for  
3 remediation. All subject matter standards shall reflect the goals  
4 as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of this title and of improving the  
5 state average of college entrance exam scores.

6 2. The State Department of Education shall annually evaluate  
7 the results of the assessments. The State Board of Education shall  
8 ensure that preliminary results for all statewide assessments are  
9 reported to districts no later than June 20 of each year and are  
10 presented in a manner that yields detailed, diagnostic information  
11 for the purpose of guiding instruction and student remediation. As  
12 improvements are made to the assessments required by this section,  
13 the Board shall seek to increase the depth of knowledge assessed for  
14 each subject. The State Board of Education shall seek to ensure  
15 that data yielded from the assessments required in this section are  
16 utilized at the school district level to inform instruction,  
17 professional development, school improvement, and remediation for  
18 students.

19 3. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
20 shall determine the cut scores for the performance levels on all  
21 statewide assessments. The Commission shall conduct an ongoing  
22 review to compare the statewide assessment content and performance  
23 descriptors with those of other states. Upon receipt of the review,  
24 the Commission may adjust the cut scores as necessary.



1        4. The State Board of Education, for the purposes of conducting  
2 reliability and validity studies, monitoring contractor adherence to  
3 professionally accepted testing standards, and providing  
4 recommendations for testing program improvement, shall retain the  
5 services of an established, independent agency or organization that  
6 is nationally recognized for its technical expertise in educational  
7 testing but is not engaged in the development of aptitude or  
8 achievement tests for elementary or secondary level grades. These  
9 national assessment experts shall annually conduct studies of the  
10 reliability and validity of the statewide assessments administered  
11 pursuant to this section. Validity studies shall include studies of  
12 decision validity and concurrent validity.

13        J. 1. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
14 setting the assessment window dates for each statewide assessment so  
15 that the assessments are administered according to recommended  
16 testing protocols and so that the assessment results are reported  
17 back to school districts in a timely manner. The vendor shall  
18 provide a final electronic data file of all school site, school  
19 district, and state results to the State Department of Education and  
20 the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability prior to August  
21 20 of each year. The Department shall forward the final data files  
22 for each school district and each school site in that district to  
23 the school district. The Board shall ensure the contract with the  
24 vendor includes a provision that the vendor report assessment

1 results directly to the Office of Educational Quality and  
2 Accountability at the same time ~~it is~~ they are reported to the  
3 Board.

4 2. State, district, and site level results of all assessments  
5 required in this section shall be disaggregated by gender, race,  
6 ethnicity, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency,  
7 and status as economically disadvantaged, except that such  
8 disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number  
9 of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically  
10 reliable information or the results would reveal personally  
11 identifiable information about an individual student. Each school  
12 site shall notify the student's parents or legal guardians of the  
13 school's performance levels in the Oklahoma School Testing Program  
14 as reported in the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program at the  
15 end of each school year.

16 K. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for the  
17 field-testing and validation of the statewide assessment system  
18 required in subsection A of this section.

19 L. The State Board of Education shall develop, administer, and  
20 incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing Program other  
21 assessment programs or procedures including appropriate  
22 accommodations for the assessment of students with disabilities as  
23 required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),  
24 20 U.S.C., Section 1400 et seq.

1 M. For purposes of developing and administering alternate  
2 assessments for students with the most significant cognitive  
3 disabilities, the State Board of Education shall not be subject to  
4 subsections D and E of Section 11-103.6a of this title.

5 N. By December 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the State  
6 Board of Education shall electronically submit a report to the  
7 Legislature containing data collected for the most recently  
8 completed school year on the number and demographics of students who  
9 were eligible for advanced mathematics courses, the number and  
10 demographics of students who were placed in advanced mathematics  
11 courses, the number and demographics of students placed in  
12 mathematics intervention courses, and the number and demographics of  
13 students not placed in advanced mathematic courses or mathematic  
14 intervention courses. The report shall include information on the  
15 type and format of advanced mathematic courses and the type and  
16 format of mathematic intervention courses.

17 O. The State Board of Education shall provide guidance on how  
18 to best develop programming and courses to ensure all impacted  
19 students receive rigorous, academically appropriate instruction in  
20 mathematics.

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

22 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
23 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
24

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.  
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