

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1632

By: Alvord

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-135, which relates to career-readiness assessments; directing the State Department of Education, rather than the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, in certain cooperation to approve certain assessments and credentials; removing language making such approval subject to funding; directing the assessments to be made available to students in certain grades beginning in certain school year; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in certain consultation to promulgate certain rules; 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 14-135, is amended to read as follows:

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

A. The State Department of Education and, in cooperation with
the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, shall
review and approve career-readiness assessments and assessment-based

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

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

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

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

- 19 a. applied mathematics,
- 20 b. workplace documents,
- 21 c. graphic literacy, or
- 22 d. critical thinking and leadership collaboration;

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

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.

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