

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SENATE BILL 1721

By: Seifried

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
8 Section 3-173, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 306,
9 O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 3-173),
10 which relates to the Oklahoma Advisory Council on
11 Indian Education; extending sunset date; requiring
12 certain appointed members to be duly authorized
13 representatives of certain tribe, department, or
14 entity; providing method of authorization; requiring
certain member's service to cease if he or she does
not have certain authorization; requiring
notification; providing for filling of vacancy;
providing certain construction; requiring electronic
submission of certain report; updating statutory
language; providing an effective date; and declaring
an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-173, as
19 amended by Section 1, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,
20 Section 3-173), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 3-173. A. There is hereby re-created to continue until
22 ~~July 1, 2026~~ July 1, 2029, in accordance with the provisions of the
23 Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian
24 Education.

1 B. The Council shall:

2 1. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the
3 Superintendent of Public Instruction in educational matters
4 affecting the education of Native American students;

5 2. Promote educational opportunities and improvement of the
6 quality of education provided to Native American students throughout
7 the state;

8 3. Advocate for Native American students in the state; and

9 4. Monitor and evaluate how the public education system of the
10 state impacts Native American students.

11 C. The Council shall be composed of eighteen (18) members as
12 follows:

13 1. Five members who shall each represent an Indian tribe in the
14 state, of which at least one shall represent an Indian tribe which
15 has an enrollment of ~~less~~ fewer than ten thousand (10,000) members
16 who reside in the state, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives from a list of nominations submitted by the elected
18 executive leaders of different Indian tribes in the state;

19 2. Four members who shall each represent the tribal education
20 departments of an Indian tribe in the state, appointed by the
21 President Pro Tempore of the Senate from a list of nominations
22 submitted by the elected executive leaders of different Indian
23 tribes in the state;

1 3. One member who shall represent the Oklahoma Council for
2 Indian Education, appointed by the Governor;

3 4. Two members who shall represent two different statewide
4 organizations representing public school teachers, appointed by the
5 President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

6 5. One member who shall represent a statewide organization
7 representing public school superintendents, appointed by the Speaker
8 of the House of Representatives;

9 6. One member who shall represent Oklahoma tribal colleges,
10 appointed by the Chancellor of Higher Education;

11 7. The Director of the Native American Cultural and Educational
12 Authority, or designee;

13 8. The Chancellor of Higher Education, or designee;

14 9. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and
15 Technology Education, or designee; and

16 10. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee.

17 D. 1. Appointments to the Council shall be made by September
18 1, 2023. The first meeting of the Council shall be called by the
19 Superintendent of Public Instruction. At the first meeting, the
20 members of the Council shall elect a chair and vice chair from among
21 the members. Meetings of the Council shall be held at least
22 quarterly at the call of the chair. Members shall serve at the
23 pleasure of their appointing authorities. A majority of the members
24 of the Council shall constitute a quorum to transact business, but

1 no vacancy shall impair the right of the remaining members to
2 exercise all of the powers of the Council. A vacancy on the Council
3 shall be filled by the original appointing authority. A vacancy on
4 the Council in a seat representing an Indian tribe in the state or
5 the tribal education department of an Indian tribe in the state may
6 be filled by the original appointing authority from a list of
7 nominations submitted by the elected executive leaders of Indian
8 tribes in the state. Appointments to fill any vacancy on the
9 Council shall be made within three (3) months following the vacancy.
10 The State Department of Education, Oklahoma Department of Career and
11 Technology Education, and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
12 Education shall provide staff, support, and information as requested
13 by the Council.

14 2. a. Each member appointed to the Council representing an
15 Indian tribe, tribal education department, or other
16 tribal entity shall be a duly authorized
17 representative of that tribe, tribal education
18 department, or tribal entity at the time of
19 appointment and throughout the duration of his or her
20 appointment. Authorized status shall be granted by
21 the elected executive leaders or the governing body of
22 the tribe or entity.

23 b. A member's service on the Council shall automatically
24 cease if he or she no longer serves as the authorized

representative of the tribe, tribal education department, or other tribal entity the member was appointed to represent. The appointing authority shall be notified in writing by the tribe, tribal education department, or other tribal entity of any such change in authorization. Upon receipt of such notice, the position shall be deemed vacant, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided for in this section.

c. Any member of the Council on the effective date of this act shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this paragraph and may continue to serve unless and until he or she is no longer the authorized representative of the tribe, tribal education department, or other tribal entity the member was appointed to represent.

E. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for serving on the Council but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. State employees who are members of the Council shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

1 2. All other members of the Council shall be reimbursed by the
2 Office of Management and Enterprise Services for travel expenses
3 incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the
4 State Travel Reimbursement Act.

5 F. The Council shall act in accordance with the provisions of
6 the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

7 G. Members who serve on the Council shall be exempt from the
8 dual-office-holding prohibitions of Section 6 of Title 51 of the
9 Oklahoma Statutes.

10 H. The Council shall have the following duties:

11 1. Identify strategies for developing an efficient and reliable
12 process of communications between Oklahoma education entities,
13 educators, tribal organizations, and other interested parties;

14 2. Identify and disseminate research-based, measurable
15 criteria, both behavioral and academic, by which the success and
16 efficacy of the education offered to Native American students in
17 Oklahoma may be measured;

18 3. Analyze data to ensure that education agencies in Oklahoma
19 continue to address the education needs of Native American students;

20 4. Encourage and promote Native American educational leadership
21 at all levels of the education system; and

22 5. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education for
23 programs that will help achieve the purposes of the Oklahoma
24 Advisory Council on Indian Education Act.

1 I. The Council shall evaluate and make an annual report on the
2 effectiveness of the public education system in Oklahoma in meeting
3 the needs of Native American students in Oklahoma. The report shall
4 be electronically submitted to the State Board of Education. The
5 report shall also contain a summary of the findings made by the
6 Council pursuant to subsection H of this section, a summary of all
7 data collected by the Council, a summary of the means by which all
8 data was collected by the Council, and any other information deemed
9 necessary by the Council.

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

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

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