

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1721

By: Seifried

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-173, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 306, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 3-173), which relates to the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education; extending sunset date; requiring certain appointed members to be duly authorized representatives of certain tribe, department, or 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 1. State employees who are members of the Council shall be  
21 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their  
22 duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State  
23 Travel Reimbursement Act; and  
24

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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