

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1897

By: Pugh

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 amend certain state plan to allow for administration of certain assessments; requiring submission of certain amendment by certain date; directing the Board to issue a request for proposals for the selection of certain assessments; requiring the Board to publish on certain website certain list of approved assessments that may be administered beginning in certain school year; requiring a school district that chooses certain assessment to administer it to all students in certain grades; 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. The State Board of Education shall amend the ESSA
8 consolidated state plan to allow public school districts in this
9 state to choose from a list of approved assessments to administer to
10 students in grades nine through twelve. The assessments shall
11 comply with the provisions of ESSA and fulfill the requirements of
12 subsection F of this section. The Board shall submit the proposed
13 amendment to the United States Department of Education no later than
14 August 1, 2026.

15 C. 1. The Board shall issue a request for proposals for the
16 selection of assessments to be administered to students in grades
17 three through twelve as a part of the statewide student assessment
18 system adopted by the Board pursuant to this section.

19 2. After the effective date of this act, the Board shall issue
20 a request for proposals for the selection of additional assessments
21 that comply with the provisions of ESSA and fulfill the requirements
22 of subsection F of this section that school districts may administer
23 to students in grades nine through twelve.

1 3. The Board shall adopt assessments from the selected
2 proposals that were submitted pursuant to ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs 1 and
3 2 of this subsection. The adopted assessments shall be administered
4 by the Board for a period that is in coordination with the six-year
5 subject area textbook adoption cycle unless the vendor does not
6 fulfill the terms of the contract or fails to comply with or
7 violates the terms of the contract. The Board shall administer the
8 assessments selected from proposals submitted pursuant to paragraph
9 1 of this subsection beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

10 4. Upon submission of the amendment to the ESSA consolidated
11 state plan pursuant to subsection B of this section and the
12 selection of assessments pursuant to paragraph 2 of this subsection,
13 the Board shall publish on the State Department of Education's
14 website the list of approved assessments selected from proposals
15 submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of this subsection that may be
16 administered beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. A school
17 district that chooses an assessment from the list of approved
18 assessments shall administer the same assessment to students in
19 grades nine through twelve as provided for in subsection F of this
20 section.

21 ~~C.~~ D. The statewide student assessment system adopted by the
22 Board pursuant to this section shall include assessments that:

23 1. Are aligned with the Oklahoma subject matter standards as
24 adopted by the Board;

2. Provide a measure of comparability among other states;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 c. United States History, with an emphasis on civics, not
2 less than once during the grade span of nine through
3 twelve.

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

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

8 b. contingent upon the availability of funds, an
9 additional nationally recognized college- and career-
10 readiness assessment or assessments as recommended by
11 the State Department of Education, which will be
12 administered to students in high school at no cost to
13 the student.

14 ~~F.~~ G. 1. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in
15 the 2017-2018 school year, each student shall take the assessment or
16 assessments included in the statewide student assessment system
17 adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of this section in
18 order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma.
19 All students shall take the assessment or assessments prior to
20 graduation, unless otherwise exempt by law.

21 2. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the
22 2017-2018 school year, each student, in addition to taking the
23 assessment or assessments included in the statewide student
24 assessment system adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of

1 this section, shall meet any other high school graduation
2 requirements adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled
3 House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma
4 Legislature in order to graduate from a public high school with a
5 standard diploma.

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

16 4. The Board shall promulgate rules to ensure that students who
17 transfer into ~~an Oklahoma~~ a school district in this state from out-
18 of-state after the junior year of high school shall not be denied
19 the opportunity to be awarded a standard diploma due to differing
20 testing requirements.

21 ~~G.~~ H. In order to provide an indication of the levels of
22 competency attained by the student in a permanent record for
23 potential future employers and institutions of higher education,
24 school districts shall report on the high school transcript of the

1 student the highest-achieved score on the assessment or assessments
2 included in the statewide student assessment system adopted by the
3 Board pursuant to subsection A of this section and any business- and
4 industry-recognized endorsements attained.

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

10 ~~H.~~ J. 1. All assessments required by this section shall
11 measure academic competencies in correlation with the subject matter
12 standards adopted by the Board pursuant to Sections 11-103.6 and 11-
13 103.6a of this title and referred to as the Oklahoma Academic
14 Standards. The State Board of Education shall evaluate the subject
15 matter standards to ensure the competencies reflect high standards,
16 are specific, well-defined, measurable, and challenging, and will
17 prepare elementary students for next-grade-level course work and
18 secondary students for postsecondary studies at institutions of
19 higher education or technology center schools without the need for
20 remediation. All subject matter standards shall reflect the goals
21 as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of this title and of improving the
22 state average of college entrance exam scores.

23 2. The State Department of Education shall annually evaluate
24 the results of the assessments. The State Board of Education shall

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

12 3. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
13 shall determine the cut scores for the performance levels on all
14 statewide assessments. The Commission shall conduct an ongoing
15 review to compare the statewide assessment content and performance
16 descriptors with those of other states. Upon receipt of the review,
17 the Commission may adjust the cut scores as necessary.

18 4. The State Board of Education, for the purposes of conducting
19 reliability and validity studies, monitoring contractor adherence to
20 professionally accepted testing standards, and providing
21 recommendations for testing program improvement, shall retain the
22 services of an established, independent agency or organization that
23 is nationally recognized for its technical expertise in educational
24 testing but is not engaged in the development of aptitude or

1 achievement tests for elementary or secondary level grades. These
2 national assessment experts shall annually conduct studies of the
3 reliability and validity of the statewide assessments administered
4 pursuant to this section. Validity studies shall include studies of
5 decision validity and concurrent validity.

6 ~~J.~~ K. 1. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
7 setting the assessment window dates for each statewide assessment so
8 that the assessments are administered according to recommended
9 testing protocols and so that the assessment results are reported
10 back to school districts in a timely manner. The vendor shall
11 provide a final electronic data file of all school site, school
12 district, and state results to the State Department of Education and
13 the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability prior to August
14 20 of each year. The Department shall forward the final data files
15 for each school district and each school site in that district to
16 the school district. The Board shall ensure the contract with the
17 vendor includes a provision that the vendor report assessment
18 results directly to the Office of Educational Quality and
19 Accountability at the same time ~~it is~~ they are reported to the
20 Board.

21 2. State, district, and site level results of all assessments
22 required in this section shall be disaggregated by gender, race,
23 ethnicity, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency,
24 and status as economically disadvantaged, except that such

1 disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number
2 of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically
3 reliable information or the results would reveal personally
4 identifiable information about an individual student. Each school
5 site shall notify the student's parents or legal guardians of the
6 school's performance levels in the Oklahoma School Testing Program
7 as reported in the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program at the
8 end of each school year.

9 ~~K.~~ L. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for the
10 field-testing and validation of the statewide assessment system
11 required in subsection A of this section.

12 ~~L.~~ M. The State Board of Education shall develop, administer,
13 and incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing Program
14 other assessment programs or procedures including appropriate
15 accommodations for the assessment of students with disabilities as
16 required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),
17 20 U.S.C., Section 1400 et seq.

18 ~~M.~~ N. For purposes of developing and administering alternate
19 assessments for students with the most significant cognitive
20 disabilities, the State Board of Education shall not be subject to
21 subsections D and E of Section 11-103.6a of this title.

22 ~~N.~~ O. By December 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the State
23 Board of Education shall electronically submit a report to the
24 Legislature containing data collected for the most recently

1 completed school year on the number and demographics of students who
2 were eligible for advanced mathematics courses, the number and
3 demographics of students who were placed in advanced mathematics
4 courses, the number and demographics of students placed in
5 mathematics intervention courses, and the number and demographics of
6 students not placed in advanced mathematic courses or mathematic
7 intervention courses. The report shall include information on the
8 type and format of advanced mathematic courses and the type and
9 format of mathematic intervention courses.

10 ~~Θ.~~ P. The State Board of Education shall provide guidance on
11 how to best develop programming and courses to ensure all impacted
12 students receive rigorous, academically appropriate instruction in
13 mathematics.

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

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

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