

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 2103

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to charter schools; amending Sections 2, Chapter 323, O.S.L. 2023, and 3-134, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 323, O.S.L. 2023, (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Sections 3-132.2 and 3-134), which relate to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act; modifying definition; modifying certain restriction on private schools; updating statutory language; updating statutory references; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 323, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 3-132.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-132.2. A. Beginning July 1, 2024, and subject to the requirements of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, the Statewide Charter School Board shall:

1. Provide supervision, services, and oversight of the operations of statewide virtual charter schools in this state and charter schools for which the Statewide Charter School Board is the sponsor, recommend legislation pertaining to charter schools to the

1 Legislature, and promulgate rules and policies that the Board deems  
2 necessary to accomplish the purposes prescribed in this section;

3 2. Ensure compliance with state laws and training requirements  
4 for all charter schools, virtual charter schools, and sponsors;

5 3. Establish a procedure for accepting, approving, and  
6 disapproving charter school and statewide virtual charter school  
7 applications and a process for renewal or revocation of approved  
8 charter contracts which meet the procedures set forth in the  
9 Oklahoma Charter Schools Act;

10 4. Hire an Executive Director and other staff for its  
11 operation;

12 5. Prepare a budget for expenditures necessary for the proper  
13 maintenance of the Board and accomplishment of its purpose;

14 6. Comply with the requirements of the Oklahoma Open Meeting  
15 Act and Oklahoma Open Records Act; and

16 7. Give priority to opening charter schools and virtual charter  
17 schools that serve at-risk student populations or students from low-  
18 performing traditional public schools.

19 B. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for  
20 accreditation of charter schools and virtual charter schools and  
21 ensure compliance with special education laws and federal laws and  
22 programs administered by the State Board of Education.

23 C. 1. For purposes of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act,  
24 "charter school" means:

1 a. prior to July 1, 2024, a public school established by  
2 contract with a school district board of education, a  
3 technology center school district, a higher education  
4 institution, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or  
5 the State Board of Education, and

6 b. on July 1, 2024, and after, a ~~public~~ publicly funded  
7 school ~~established~~ created and operated by contract  
8 with a school district board of education, a higher  
9 education institution, an institution of higher  
10 learning accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of ~~Title~~  
11 ~~70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, a federally  
12 recognized Indian tribe, or the Statewide Charter  
13 School Board,

14 to provide learning that will improve student achievement and as  
15 defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as  
16 reauthorized by P.L. No. 114-95, also known as the Every Student  
17 Succeeds Act.

18 2. A charter school may consist of a new school site, new  
19 school sites, or all or any portion of an existing school site. An  
20 entire school district may not become a charter school site.

21 D. 1. For the purposes of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act,  
22 "conversion school" means a school created by converting all or any  
23 part of a traditional public school in order to access any or all  
24 flexibilities afforded to a charter school; provided, however, all

1 or any part of a traditional public school shall not be converted to  
2 a virtual charter school.

3 2. Prior to the board of education of a school district  
4 converting all or any part of a traditional public school to a  
5 conversion school, the board shall prepare a conversion plan. The  
6 conversion plan shall include documentation that demonstrates and  
7 complies with paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,  
8 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 34, and 35 of subsection B of Section 3-134  
9 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title. The conversion  
10 plan and all documents shall be in writing and shall be available to  
11 the public pursuant to the requirements of the Oklahoma Open Records  
12 Act. All votes by the board of education of a school district to  
13 approve a conversion plan shall be held in an open public session.  
14 If the board of education of a school district votes to approve a  
15 conversion plan, the board shall notify the State Board of Education  
16 within sixty (60) days after the vote. The notification shall  
17 include a copy of the minutes for the board meeting at which the  
18 conversion plan was approved.

19 3. A conversion school shall comply with all the same  
20 accountability measures as are required of a charter school as  
21 defined in subsection C of this section. The provisions of Sections  
22 3-140 and 3-142 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title  
23 shall not apply to a conversion school. Conversion schools shall  
24 comply with the same laws and State Board of Education rules

1 relating to student enrollment which apply to traditional public  
2 schools. Conversion schools shall be funded by the board of  
3 education of the school district as a school site within the school  
4 district and funding shall not be affected by the conversion of the  
5 school.

6 4. The board of education of a school district may vote to  
7 revert a conversion school back to a traditional public school at  
8 any time; provided, the change shall only occur during a break  
9 between school years.

10 5. Unless otherwise provided for in this subsection, a  
11 conversion school shall retain the characteristics of a traditional  
12 public school.

13 E. 1. Beginning July 1, 2024, the Statewide Charter School  
14 Board shall make publicly available a list of supplemental online  
15 courses which have been reviewed and certified by the Board to  
16 ensure that the courses are high-quality options and are aligned  
17 with the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of  
18 Education pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~  
19 ~~Statutes~~ this title. The Statewide Charter School Board shall give  
20 special emphasis on listing supplemental online courses in science,  
21 technology, engineering, and math (STEM), foreign language, and  
22 advanced placement courses. School districts shall not be limited  
23 to selecting supplemental online courses that have been reviewed and  
24

1 certified by the Statewide Charter School Board and listed as  
2 provided for in this paragraph.

3 2. In conjunction with the Office of Management and Enterprise  
4 Services, the Board shall negotiate and enter into contracts with  
5 supplemental online course providers to offer a state rate price to  
6 school districts for supplemental online courses that have been  
7 reviewed and certified by the Statewide Charter School Board and  
8 listed as provided for in this subsection.

9 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-134, as  
10 last amended by Section 6, Chapter 323, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp.  
11 2025, Section 3-134), is amended to read as follows:

12 Section 3-134. A. For written applications filed after July 1,  
13 2024, prior to submission of the application to a proposed sponsor  
14 seeking to establish a charter school or to the Statewide Charter  
15 School Board to establish a virtual charter school, the applicant  
16 shall be required to complete training which shall not exceed ten  
17 (10) hours provided by the Statewide Charter School Board on the  
18 process and requirements for establishing a charter school or  
19 virtual charter school. The sponsor of a charter school that enters  
20 into a new or renewed sponsorship contract on or after July 1, 2024,  
21 shall be required to complete training provided by the Statewide  
22 Charter School Board or an organization approved by the Statewide  
23 Charter School Board on the oversight duties of the sponsor. The  
24 Board shall develop and implement the training and publish a list of

1 organizations approved to provide training by July 1, 2024. The  
2 Board and organizations approved by the Board may provide the  
3 training in any format and manner determined to be efficient and  
4 effective including, but not limited to, web-based training.

5 B. Except as otherwise provided for in Section 3-137 of this  
6 title, an applicant seeking to establish a virtual charter school  
7 shall submit a written application to the Statewide Charter School  
8 Board, and an applicant seeking to establish a charter school shall  
9 submit a written application to the proposed sponsor as provided for  
10 in subsection E of this section. The application shall include:

11 1. A mission statement for the charter school or virtual  
12 charter school;

13 2. A description including, but not limited to, background  
14 information of the organizational structure and the governing board  
15 of the charter school or virtual charter school;

16 3. A financial plan for the first five (5) years of operation  
17 of the charter school or virtual charter school and a description of  
18 the treasurer or other officers or persons who shall have primary  
19 responsibility for the finances of the charter school or virtual  
20 charter school. Such person shall have demonstrated experience in  
21 school finance or the equivalent thereof;

22 4. A description of the hiring policy of the charter school or  
23 virtual charter school;

1        5. The name of the applicant or applicants and requested  
2 sponsor;

3        6. A description of the facility and location of the charter  
4 school;

5        7. A description of the grades being served;

6        8. An outline of criteria designed to measure the effectiveness  
7 of the charter school or virtual charter school;

8        9. Documentation that the applicants completed training as set  
9 forth in subsection A of this section;

10       10. A description of the minimum and maximum enrollment planned  
11 per year for each term of the charter contract;

12       11. The proposed calendar for the charter school or virtual  
13 charter school and sample daily schedule;

14       12. Unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, a  
15 description of the academic program aligned with state standards;

16       13. A description of the instructional design of the charter  
17 school or virtual charter school including the type of learning  
18 environment, class size and structure, curriculum overview, and  
19 teaching methods;

20       14. The plan for using internal and external assessments to  
21 measure and report student progress on the performance framework  
22 developed by the applicant in accordance with Section 3-136 of this  
23 title;



1        15. The plans for identifying and successfully serving students  
2 with disabilities, students who are English language learners, and  
3 students who are academically behind;

4        16. A description of cocurricular or extracurricular programs  
5 and how they will be funded and delivered;

6        17. Plans and ~~time lines~~ timelines for student recruitment and  
7 enrollment including lottery procedures;

8        18. The student discipline policies for the charter school or  
9 virtual charter school including those for ~~special education~~  
10 students with disabilities;

11       19. An organizational chart that clearly presents the  
12 organizational structure of the charter school or virtual charter  
13 school, including lines of authority and reporting between the  
14 governing board, staff, any related bodies such as advisory bodies  
15 or parent and teacher councils, and any external organizations that  
16 will play a role in managing the school;

17       20. A clear description of the roles and responsibilities for  
18 the governing board, the leadership and management team for the  
19 charter school or virtual charter school, and any other entities  
20 shown in the organizational chart;

21       21. The leadership and teacher employment policies for the  
22 charter school or virtual charter school;

23       22. Proposed governing bylaws;

24  
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1        23. Explanations of any partnerships or contractual  
2 partnerships central to the operations or mission of the charter  
3 school or virtual charter school;

4        24. The plans for providing transportation, food service, and  
5 all other significant operational or ancillary services;

6        25. Opportunities and expectations for parental involvement;

7        26. A detailed school start-up plan that identifies tasks, ~~time~~  
8 ~~lines~~ timelines, and responsible individuals;

9        27. A description of the financial plan and policies for the  
10 charter school or virtual charter school including financial  
11 controls and audit requirements;

12       28. A description of the insurance coverage the charter school  
13 or virtual charter school will obtain;

14       29. Start-up and five-year budgets with clearly stated  
15 assumptions;

16       30. Start-up and first-year cash-flow projections with clearly  
17 stated assumptions;

18       31. Evidence of anticipated fundraising contributions, if  
19 claimed in the application;

20       32. A sound facilities plan including backup or contingency  
21 plans if appropriate;

22       33. A requirement that the charter school or virtual charter  
23 school governing board meet no fewer than ten (10) months of the  
24 year in the state and that for those charter schools outside of  
25

counties with a population of five hundred thousand (500,000) or more, that a minimum of two ~~(2)~~ members are residents within the geographic boundary of the charter school;

34. A requirement that the charter school or virtual charter school follow the requirements of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and Oklahoma Open Records Act; and

35. A copy of any proposed contract between the governing board of a charter school or virtual charter school and an educational management organization, as defined by Section 5-200 of this title, which meets the requirements of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act.

C. A board of education of a public school district, public body, public or private college or university, private person, or private organization may contract with a sponsor to ~~establish~~ operate a charter school or virtual charter school. ~~A~~ An operating private school shall not be eligible to contract for a charter school or virtual charter school under the provisions of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act.

D. The sponsor of a charter school is the board of education of a school district, a higher education institution, a private institution of higher learning accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, a federally recognized Indian tribe which meets the criteria established in Section 3-132 of this title, or beginning July 1, 2024, the Statewide Charter School Board. Any sponsor authorized pursuant to subsection A of Section 3-132 of this title

1 may sponsor one or more charter schools. The physical location of a  
2 charter school sponsored by a board of education of a school  
3 district shall be within the boundaries of the sponsoring school  
4 district. The physical location of a charter school sponsored by  
5 the Statewide Charter School Board pursuant to paragraph 6 of  
6 subsection A of Section 3-132 of this title shall be in the school  
7 district in which the application originated.

8 E. 1. Beginning July 1, 2024, any application seeking to  
9 establish a charter school in this state shall be submitted first to  
10 the school district in which the proposed charter school is to be  
11 located. The school district board of education shall approve or  
12 deny the application within sixty (60) days of receipt of the  
13 application. If the charter school application is denied, nothing  
14 shall prohibit an applicant from submitting a revised application to  
15 the school district board of education, which shall approve or deny  
16 the revised application within sixty (60) days of receipt of the  
17 application.

18 2. An applicant for a charter school that has been denied  
19 pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection may submit an application  
20 to a proposed sponsor listed in paragraphs 2 through 6 of subsection  
21 A of Section 3-132 of this title, which shall either accept or  
22 reject sponsorship of the charter school within ninety (90) days of  
23 receipt of the application. If the proposed sponsor rejects the  
24 application, it shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons

1 for the rejection. The applicant may submit a revised application  
2 for reconsideration to the proposed sponsor within thirty (30) days  
3 after receiving notification of the rejection. The proposed sponsor  
4 shall accept or reject the revised application within thirty (30)  
5 days of its receipt.

6 3. Beginning July 1, 2024, an applicant for a virtual charter  
7 school shall submit an application to the Statewide Charter School  
8 Board, which shall either accept or reject sponsorship of the  
9 virtual charter school within ninety (90) days of receipt of the  
10 application. If the application is rejected, the Statewide Charter  
11 School Board shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons  
12 for the rejection. The applicant may submit a revised application  
13 for reconsideration to the Statewide Charter ~~school~~ School Board  
14 within thirty (30) days after receiving notification of the  
15 rejection. The Statewide Charter School Board shall accept or  
16 reject the revised application within thirty (30) days of its  
17 receipt.

18 F. A board of education of a school district, a higher  
19 education institution, a private institution of higher learning  
20 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, or a federally  
21 recognized Indian tribe shall notify the State Board of Education  
22 and the Statewide Charter School Board when it accepts sponsorship  
23 of a charter school. The notification shall include a copy of the  
24 charter of the charter school.

1 G. Applicants for charter schools and virtual charter schools  
2 proposed to be sponsored by the Statewide Charter School Board may,  
3 upon rejection of a revised application, proceed to binding  
4 arbitration under the commercial rules of the American Arbitration  
5 Association with costs of the arbitration to be borne by the  
6 applicant.

7 H. If a board of education of a school district, a higher  
8 education institution, a private institution of higher learning  
9 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, or a federally  
10 recognized Indian tribe accepts sponsorship of a charter school, the  
11 administrative, fiscal, and oversight responsibilities of the school  
12 district, the higher education institution, the private institution  
13 of higher learning accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this  
14 title, or the federally recognized Indian tribe shall be listed in  
15 the contract. No administrative, fiscal, or oversight  
16 responsibilities of a charter school shall be delegated to a school  
17 district unless the school district agrees to enter into a contract  
18 to assume the responsibilities.

19 I. A sponsor of a public charter school shall have the  
20 following powers and duties over charter schools it sponsors, and  
21 the Statewide Charter School Board shall have the following powers  
22 and duties over the charter schools and virtual charter schools it  
23 sponsors:  
24

1 1. Provide services and oversight of the operations of charter  
2 schools or virtual charter schools in the state through annual  
3 performance reviews and reauthorization;

4 2. Solicit and evaluate charter applications;

5 3. Approve quality charter applications that meet identified  
6 educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices;

7 4. Decline to approve weak or inadequate charter applications;

8 5. Negotiate and execute sound charter contracts with each  
9 approved public charter school or virtual charter school;

10 6. Approve or deny proposed contracts between the governing  
11 board of a charter school or virtual charter school and an  
12 educational management organization, as defined by ~~section~~ Section  
13 5-200 of this title;

14 7. Monitor, in accordance with charter contract terms, the  
15 performance and legal compliance of charter schools and virtual  
16 charter schools; and

17 8. Determine whether each charter contract merits renewal,  
18 nonrenewal, or revocation.

19 J. Sponsors shall establish a procedure for accepting,  
20 approving, and disapproving charter school applications in  
21 accordance with subsection E of this section. The Statewide Charter  
22 School Board shall post its application, application process, and  
23 application time frames on the Board's website.  
24

1 K. Sponsors including the Statewide Charter School Board shall  
2 develop and maintain chartering policies and practices consistent  
3 with recognized principles and standards for quality charter  
4 sponsoring in all major areas of sponsoring responsibility including  
5 organizational capacity and infrastructure, soliciting and  
6 evaluating charter school and virtual charter school applications,  
7 performance contracting, ongoing charter school and virtual charter  
8 school oversight and evaluation, and charter contract renewal  
9 decision-making.

10 L. Sponsors acting in their official capacity shall be immune  
11 from civil and criminal liability with respect to all activities  
12 related to a charter school with which they contract.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

14 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
15 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
16 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
17 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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