

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 17, 2026

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1735

By: Seifried

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5
6 An Act relating to career and technology education;
7 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-108, as amended by
8 Section 1, Chapter 326, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp.
9 2025, Section 14-108), which relates to technology
10 center school districts and their boards of
11 education; directing technology center school
12 district schools to be subject to certain provisions
13 of the State Board of Career and Technology Education
14 rather than the State Board of Education; updating
15 statutory language; providing an effective date; and
16 declaring an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-108, as
19 amended by Section 1, Chapter 326, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,
20 Section 14-108), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 14-108. A. The State Board of Career and Technology
22 Education shall prescribe criteria and procedures for the
23 establishment and governance of technology center school districts,
24 as provided by Section 9B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution,
and such districts so established shall be operated in accordance
with rules of the State Board of Career and Technology Education,
except as otherwise provided in this title.

1 B. A technology center school district shall be a body
2 corporate and shall possess the usual powers of a corporation for
3 public purposes. Its official name shall be designated by the State
4 Board of Career and Technology Education, in which name it may sue
5 and be sued, ~~and~~ be capable of contracting and being contracted
6 with, and ~~holding~~ hold real and personal estate.

7 C. The governing board of a technology center school district
8 shall be a board of education consisting of not ~~less~~ fewer than five
9 (5) nor more than seven (7) members. Except as otherwise provided
10 for in subsections D and E of this section, all members of the board
11 of education shall be elected in a manner prescribed by the State
12 Board of Career and Technology Education. The ~~State~~ Board shall
13 promulgate rules prescribing the manner in which the elections
14 required by this subsection are held.

15 D. In a technology center school district that serves seventy
16 or more public school districts, the territory of the technology
17 center school district shall be divided into district zones by the
18 State Board of Career and Technology Education. Between August 1
19 and December 31 of the year following the submission by the United
20 States Department of Commerce to the President of the United States
21 of the official Federal Decennial Census, the Board shall
22 reapportion the territory of the technology center school district
23 into district zones. All boundaries of district zones shall follow
24 clearly visible, definable, and observable physical boundaries which

1 are based upon criteria established and recognized by the Bureau of
2 the Census of the United States Department of Commerce for purposes
3 of defining census blocks for its decennial census and shall follow,
4 as much as possible, precinct boundaries. District zones shall be
5 compact, contiguous, and shall be as equal in population as
6 practical with not more than a five-percent variance between the
7 most populous and least populous district zones. The board of
8 education of a technology center school district shall consist of
9 one member elected from each of the district zones of the technology
10 center school district created pursuant to this subsection. The
11 electors of each district zone shall elect a person, who is a
12 resident of the district zone, to represent the district zone on the
13 ~~school~~ board. If during the term of office to which a person was
14 elected, that member ceases to be a resident of the district zone
15 for which the person was elected, the office shall become vacant and
16 the vacancy shall be filled as provided in Section 13A-110 of Title
17 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The State Board of Career and
18 Technology Education shall promulgate rules prescribing the manner
19 in which the elections required by this subsection ~~are~~ shall be
20 held.

21 E. In technology center school districts having a population of
22 more than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) electors, the
23 territory of the technology center school district shall be divided
24 into board zones by the State Board of Career and Technology

1 Education. The board of education of the technology center school
2 district shall consist of one member elected from each of the
3 district zones. Beginning July 1, 2024, the board of education
4 shall have the option, upon approval of a board resolution, of
5 requiring that the electors of each district zone ~~shall~~ elect a
6 person who is a resident of the district zone to represent the
7 district zone on the ~~school~~ board and to not elect all board members
8 at large, or the community continues to vote for the board members
9 at large. If during the term of office to which a person was
10 elected, that member ceases to be a resident of the district zone
11 for which the person was elected, the office shall become vacant,
12 and the vacancy shall be filled as provided for in Section 13A-110
13 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The State Board of Career and
14 Technology Education shall promulgate rules prescribing the manner
15 in which the elections required by this subsection ~~are~~ shall be
16 held.

17 F. The board of education of a technology center school
18 district shall have the same powers and duties that boards of
19 education of independent school districts have. It may require
20 nonresident students to pay reasonable tuition fees, which may be
21 paid for a student by the independent or elementary school district
22 in which the student resides.

23 G. An election to vote on the question of making a levy of not
24 to exceed five (5) mills on the dollar valuation of the taxable

1 property in a technology center school district under the provisions
2 of subsection A of Section 9B of Article X of the Oklahoma
3 Constitution, shall be called by the board of education and
4 conducted by the county election board of such district in the same
5 manner that elections for emergency levies in school districts under
6 the provisions of subsection (d) of Section 9 of Article X of the
7 Oklahoma Constitution, are called and conducted. When such levy is
8 approved by a majority of the electors of the technology center
9 school district voting on the question at such election, the levy
10 shall be made each fiscal year thereafter until repealed by a
11 majority of the electors of the district voting on the question at
12 an election called for such purpose. An election to vote on the
13 question of making a local incentive levy of not to exceed five (5)
14 mills on the dollar valuation of the taxable property in a
15 technology center school district under the provisions of subsection
16 B of Section 9B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, may be
17 called by the board of education; and elections on a levy for a
18 building fund for an area school district under the provisions of
19 Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, shall be
20 called by the board of education of such district and conducted by
21 the county election board in the same manner that elections for
22 similar levies are called and conducted in independent school
23 districts.

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1 H. Annual estimates of needs of technology center school
2 districts shall be made and approved in the same manner that those
3 of independent school districts are made and approved. Provided,
4 that the State Board of Career and Technology Education shall
5 prescribe a list of appropriation accounts by which the funds of
6 technology center school districts shall be budgeted, accounted for,
7 and expended. Any such estimate of needs may include an estimate of
8 federal funds as probable income from sources other than ad valorem
9 tax of the district and other than any excise or other tax assessed
10 by legislative enactment and distributed in lieu of ad valorem
11 taxes. If a technology center school district lies in more than one
12 county, the district's estimate of needs shall be filed with and
13 approved by the county excise board of the county designated by the
14 school district board of education.

15 I. Territory may be annexed to or detached from a technology
16 center school district, in accordance with rules prescribed by the
17 State Board of Career and Technology Education. If the State Board
18 of Career and Technology Education requires the submission of a
19 petition in order for an election to be called for the purpose of
20 annexation or deannexation of territory to a technology center
21 school district, such petition shall not be required to bear a
22 number of technology center school district electors' signatures
23 which exceed fifty percent (50%) of the number of technology center
24 school district electors who voted in the last school board election

1 in the territory proposed to be annexed or deannexed. Provided, the
2 period of time from which the petition is initiated to its time of
3 filing with the State Board shall not exceed ninety (90) days.

4 J. Schools of technology center school districts shall be
5 subject to classification, inspection, and accreditation by the
6 State Board of Career and Technology Education.

7 K. The technology center school district board of education may
8 designate a county treasurer to serve as treasurer of the school
9 district or may appoint an independent treasurer.

10 L. Within four (4) years after the creation of a technology
11 center school district, such school district may, at its discretion,
12 permit a teacher to transfer any or all accrued benefits upon
13 employment including credit for years of service in the previous
14 school district by the technology center school district, if the
15 teacher at the time of hiring is employed as a teacher by an
16 independent or elementary school district which is all or partly
17 within the boundaries of the technology center school district or is
18 employed as a teacher in a skills center within the boundaries of
19 the school district.

20 M. The board of education of a technology center school
21 district may convey surplus personal property without consideration
22 to:

23 1. A school district that is within the boundary of the
24 technology center school district;

1 2. A public school offering secondary level education which was
2 created and is operated by this state and that is within the
3 boundary of the technology center school district;

4 3. A technology center school district; or

5 4. The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education
6 for the support or delivery of department initiatives.

7 N. The board of education of a technology center school
8 district may, without prior approval of the State Board of Career
9 and Technology Education, approve all plans and specifications for
10 technology center school buildings, additions, and major
11 modifications to school buildings that are designed to provide for
12 the offering of vocational-technical education programs and services
13 when the cost of the building project is to be paid with local
14 levies or state bond monies or both local levies and state bond
15 monies.

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

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

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
22 February 17, 2026 - DO PASS
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