An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1684

By: Denney, Brown, Shelton, Griffith, Lockhart, Condit and Perryman of the House

and

Griffin, Floyd, Pittman and Matthews of the Senate

An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 19, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 6-194), which relates to professional development programs; modifying membership of certain committee; requiring teacher training program to include abuse recognition, reporting, and resources; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-100.5, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 24-100.5), which relates to Safe School Committee; allowing a Safe School Committee to make recommendations regarding certain response program; allowing schools to establish an abuse-prevention instructional program; giving school board discretion over content; setting minimum instructional requirements; allowing student to opt out of participation pursuant to certain act; providing certain construction; directing the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, in certain collaboration, to identify certain curriculum; directing promulgation of rules; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Education

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 19, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this state shall establish professional development programs for the certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a professional development committee appointed by the board of education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for certified teachers and administrators of the district. If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development program, the district may expend any monies allocated for professional development for any purpose related to the support and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of education of the school district.

B. Each professional development committee shall include classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district. ~~At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee shall include at least one school counselor in its membership~~.

C. In developing program recommendations, each professional development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach to analyze student data and determine district and school professional development needs. The professional development programs adopted shall be directed toward development of competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum areas for the following goals:

1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the district and each school site;

2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-mandated tests and the ACT;

4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

Each program may also include components on classroom management and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis. The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic education components into professional development programs.

D. At ~~least~~ a minimum of once ~~a~~ an academic year a program shall be offered which includes ~~a component of teacher training on recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect which all teachers shall be required to complete. Additionally at least one~~ the following:

1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;

2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;

3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and

4. Available resources.

E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to complete the autism training at least one time every three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or credit required each year through programs or courses specifically designed for school counselors.

Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited to, professional development provided by the district, any state agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

~~D.~~ F. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district board of education to meet the professional development requirements established by the board, or established through the negotiation process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the professional development requirements established by each board of education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum number of the total number of points required to maintain employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of education professional development requirements may be grounds for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments affecting the teacher. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a certified teacher shall not be required to complete any points of the total number of professional development points required. Provided, a teacher may elect to complete some or all of the minimum number of points required for the two (2) fiscal years and any points completed shall be counted toward the total number of points required to maintain employment. If a teacher does not complete some or all of the minimum number of points required for one (1) or both fiscal years, the total number of points required to maintain employment shall be adjusted and reduced by the number of points not completed.

~~E.~~ G. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State Department of Education on the district level professional development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development program as provided for in subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but shall report to the State Department of Education its election not to offer a program and all professional development activities completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

~~F.~~ H. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall develop an online system for reporting as required in

subsection E of this section. The Department shall also make such information available on its website.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-100.5, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 24-100.5), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-100.5 A. Every year each public school site shall establish a Safe School Committee to be composed of at least seven (7) members. The Safe School Committee shall be composed of teachers, parents of enrolled students, students, and a school official who participates in the investigation of reports of bullying as required by subsection A of Section 24-100.4 of this title. The Committee may include administrators, school staff, school volunteers, community representatives, and local law enforcement agencies. The Committee shall assist the school board in promoting a positive school climate through planning, implementing and evaluating effective prevention, readiness and response strategies, including the policy required by Section 24-100.4 of this title.

B. The Safe School Committee shall study and make recommendations to the principal regarding:

1. Unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students, faculty and staff to avoid physical and emotional harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues which prohibit the maintenance of a safe school;

2. Student bullying as defined in Section 24-100.3 of this title;

3. Professional development needs of faculty and staff to recognize and implement methods to decrease student bullying; and

4. Methods to encourage the involvement of the community and students, the development of individual relationships between students and school staff, and use of problem-solving teams and resources that include counselors and other behavioral health and suicide prevention resources within or outside the school system.

In its considerations, the Safe School Committee shall review the district policy for the prevention of bullying and the list of research-based programs appropriate for the prevention of bullying of students at school compiled by the State Department of Education.

In addition, the Committee may review traditional and accepted bullying prevention programs utilized by other states, state agencies, or school districts.

C. The Safe School Committee may study and make recommendations to the school district board of education regarding the development of a rape or sexual assault response program that may be implemented at the school site.

D. The State Department of Education shall:

1. Develop a model policy and deliver training materials to all school districts on the components that should be included in a school district policy for the prevention of bullying; and

2. Compile and distribute to each public school site, prominently display on the State Department of Education website and annually publicize in print media a list of research-based programs appropriate for the prevention of bullying of students. If a school district implements a commercial bullying prevention program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Education.

~~D.~~ E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to technology center schools.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.160 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. All public schools may establish an abuse-prevention instructional program for students, consistent with this section. The content of instruction shall be at the discretion of the school board; provided, that the instructional program shall:

1. Provide developmental and age-appropriate curriculum to teach children risk-reduction strategies including, but not limited to:

a. how to identify dangerous situations,

b. personal boundary violations,

c. how to refuse approaches and invitations,

d. how to summon help, and

e. what to do if abuse occurs;

2. Be offered annually to reinforce and build on skills learned the previous year;

3. Involve students as active learning participants;

4. Have the capacity to be delivered by a wide range of personnel including teachers, school counselors, prevention agency educators, and other professionals;

5. Include evidence-informed curriculum;

6. Include an evaluation component that utilizes a pre- and post-program surveys or testing of the students to measure the acquisition of the lessons taught;

7. Provide instruction that is culturally sensitive and adaptable; and

8. Encourage parental involvement within the abuse prevention program to include, but not be limited to, information on child abuse prevention, risk-reduction techniques, abuse reporting, and support service availability.

B. Pursuant to the Parents' Bill of Rights, Section 2001 et seq. of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, no student shall be required to participate in an abuse-prevention instructional program. Failure to participate shall not, by itself, be grounds for a referral to the Department of Human Services pursuant to Section 1-2-101 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.69 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall, in collaboration with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention within the State Department of Health and other prevention service providers, identify evidence-informed curriculum appropriate for schools that meet the guidelines of subsection A of Section 3 of this act.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.161 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The State Board of Education, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, and the State Board of Health shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

Passed the House of Representatives the 28th day of April, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 20th day of April, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 29th day of April, 2015, at 3:00 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 4th day of May, 2015, at 2:25 o'clock P M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 4th day of May, 2015, at 3:18 o'clock P. M.

By: C. Bunge