

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 1686

By: Talley

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; authorizing the State
8 Board of Education to adopt suicide awareness and
9 prevention curriculum; defining term; amending 70
10 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section
11 1, Chapter 16, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020,
12 Section 6-194), which relates to professional
13 development programs; allowing suicide awareness and
14 prevention training be offered; providing for
15 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.3a of Title 70, unless
19 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. The State Board of Education may adopt a curriculum with
21 courses of instruction for all students enrolled in the public
22 schools that includes suicide awareness and prevention.

23 B. As used in this section, "curriculum" means the subject
24 matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
25 Section 11-103.6 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. School
26 districts shall exclusively determine instruction, specific course

1 curricula, reading lists and instructional materials pursuant to
2 subsection F of Section 11-103.6a of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
3 Statutes.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as
5 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 16, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp.
6 2020, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

7 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this
8 state shall establish professional development programs for the
9 certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs
10 shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a
11 professional development committee appointed by the board of
12 education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30,
13 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may
14 elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for
15 certified teachers and administrators of the district. If a school
16 district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development
17 program, the district may expend any monies allocated for
18 professional development for any purpose related to the support and
19 maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of
20 education of the school district.

21 B. Each professional development committee shall include
22 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed
23 mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of
24 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher

1 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional
2 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The
3 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of
4 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers
5 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to
6 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

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

- 14 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the
15 district and each school site;
- 16 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
- 17 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-
18 mandated tests and the ACT;
- 19 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and
- 20 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

21 Each program may also include components on classroom management
22 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or
23 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic
24 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116

1 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis.
2 The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist
3 school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic
4 education components into professional development programs.

5 D. At a minimum of once an academic year a program shall be
6 offered which includes the following:

- 7 1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
- 8 2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
- 9 3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and
- 10 4. Available resources.

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

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1 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically
2 designed for school counselors.

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

8 F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a
9 dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. At a minimum, the
10 program shall include:

11 1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in
12 students;

13 2. Training in effective classroom instruction to meet the
14 needs of students with dyslexia; and

15 3. Available dyslexia resources for teachers, students and
16 parents.

17 G. One time per year, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year,
18 suicide awareness and prevention training may be offered. The
19 training may be accomplished through self-review of suitable suicide
20 prevention materials approved by the district.

21 H. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each
22 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district
23 board of education to meet the professional development requirements
24 established by the board, or established through the negotiation

1 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the
2 professional development requirements established by each board of
3 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum
4 number of the total number of points required to maintain
5 employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of
6 education professional development requirements may be grounds for
7 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure
8 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments
9 affecting the teacher. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011,
10 and June 30, 2012, a certified teacher shall not be required to
11 complete any points of the total number of professional development
12 points required. Provided, a teacher may elect to complete some or
13 all of the minimum number of points required for the two (2) fiscal
14 years and any points completed shall be counted toward the total
15 number of points required to maintain employment. If a teacher does
16 not complete some or all of the minimum number of points required
17 for one (1) or both fiscal years, the total number of points
18 required to maintain employment shall be adjusted and reduced by the
19 number of points not completed.

20 H. I. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State
21 Department of Education on the district level professional
22 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results
23 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection
24 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and

1 offer a professional development program as provided for in
2 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to
3 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but
4 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not
5 to offer a program and all professional development activities
6 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

7 ~~¶~~ J. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department
8 shall develop an online system for reporting as required in
9 subsection ~~¶~~ I of this section. The Department shall also make such
10 information available on its website.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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