

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 1441

By: Provenzano

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
8 Sections 6-192 and 6-194, as amended by Section 1,  
9 Chapter 211, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section  
10 6-194), which relate to professional development;  
11 requiring digital program to be completed at a  
12 frequency determined by the board of education;  
13 deleting outdated language; authorizing completion of  
14 certain programs at a frequency determined by the  
15 board; modifying frequency of child abuse training;  
16 altering frequency of dyslexia and dysgraphia  
17 program; establishing maximum amount of mandatory  
18 professional development and training in a five-year  
19 period; requiring teachers to maintain certain  
20 documentation; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-  
21 194.3, which relates to student mental health  
22 training for teachers; modifying frequency of  
23 training; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-195, which  
24 relates to teacher induction programs; authorizing  
board to establish frequency for training; amending  
70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6j, which relates to  
workplace safety training curriculum; requiring board  
to determine frequency of training; amending 70 O.S.  
2021, Section 24-100.4, which relates to the School  
Safety and Bullying Prevention Act; altering  
frequency of bullying prevention training; amending  
70 O.S. 2021, Section 24-100.7, which relates to  
suicide awareness and prevention; adjusting frequency  
of training; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.229-  
5, which relates to substance abuse programs;  
modifying frequency of teacher training; providing an  
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

2 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-192, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 Section 6-192. A. It is hereby declared to be the intent of  
5 the Legislature to establish a professional development procedure  
6 whereby all teachers in the state continue their education beyond  
7 initial certification by the state to ensure that the children of  
8 the state are taught by professional educators, fully prepared in  
9 their areas of expertise. Furthermore, such professional  
10 development procedure shall provide alternative means of education,  
11 including one or more of the following: In-service programs, higher  
12 education courses, or other alternative means of education designed  
13 to help teachers enrich their professional abilities.

14 B. The professional development procedure shall include digital  
15 teaching and learning standards to enhance content delivery to  
16 students and improve student achievement. A ~~local~~ school district  
17 board of education shall require a program for teachers which shall  
18 emphasize the importance of digital teaching and learning standards.  
19 The program shall be completed ~~the first year a certified teacher is~~  
20 ~~employed by a school district, and then~~ at a frequency as determined  
21 by the ~~local~~ board of education.

22 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as  
23 amended by Section 1, Chapter 211, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022,  
24 Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

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

15       B. Each professional development committee shall include  
16 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed  
17 mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of  
18 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher  
19 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional  
20 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The  
21 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of  
22 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers  
23 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to  
24 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

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

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

10 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

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

13 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

14 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

15 Each program may also include components on classroom management  
16 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or  
17 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic  
18 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116  
19 of this title shall be required to complete ~~on a periodic basis~~ at a  
20 frequency as determined by the board of education. The State Board  
21 of Education shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in  
22 developing and implementing racial and ethnic education components  
23 into professional development programs.

1 D. ~~At a minimum of once an academic year a~~ A program shall be  
2 ~~offered~~ which includes the following information shall be completed  
3 the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school district,  
4 and then once every fifth academic year:

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

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

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

5 ~~F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a~~  
6 A dyslexia awareness program shall be offered completed the first  
7 year a certified teacher is employed by a school district, and then  
8 once every fifth academic year. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school  
9 year, the program shall include information and training in  
10 dysgraphia. At a minimum, the 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. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each  
18 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district  
19 board of education to meet the professional development requirements  
20 established by the board, or established through the negotiation  
21 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the  
22 professional development requirements established by each board of  
23 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum  
24 number of the total number of points required to maintain

1 employment; provided, no more than a total of one hundred fifty  
2 (150) hours of local, state, or federal professional development or  
3 training shall be required for classroom teachers during any five-  
4 year period. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of  
5 education professional development requirements may be grounds for  
6 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure  
7 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments  
8 affecting the teacher. ~~For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011,~~  
9 ~~and June 30, 2012, a certified teacher shall not be required to~~  
10 ~~complete any points of the total number of professional development~~  
11 ~~points required. Provided, a teacher may elect to complete some or~~  
12 ~~all of the minimum number of points required for the two (2) fiscal~~  
13 ~~years and any points completed shall be counted toward the total~~  
14 ~~number of points required to maintain employment. If a teacher does~~  
15 ~~not complete some or all of the minimum number of points required~~  
16 ~~for one (1) or both fiscal years, the total number of points~~  
17 ~~required to maintain employment shall be adjusted and reduced by the~~  
18 ~~number of points not completed. Teachers shall maintain written~~  
19 documentation of all their completed professional development.

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

11 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194.3, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-194.3 A. The State Department of Education and the  
14 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in  
15 consultation with school district superintendents and school  
16 district boards of education, shall develop and make available to  
17 school districts information, training, and resources to help school  
18 employees recognize and address the mental health needs of students.  
19 A ~~local~~ school district board of education shall require a training  
20 program for teachers which shall emphasize the importance of  
21 recognizing and addressing the mental health needs of students. The  
22 program shall be completed the first year a certified teacher is  
23 employed by a school district, and then once every ~~third~~ fifth  
24 academic year.



1 B. The information made available to school districts shall  
2 include, but not be limited to:

3 1. Information about the services provided by community-based  
4 organizations related to mental health, substance abuse, and trauma;

5 2. Information about the impact trauma and adverse childhood  
6 experiences can have on a student's ability to learn;

7 3. The availability of mental health evaluation and treatment  
8 available by telemedicine; and

9 4. Information about evidence-based strategies for prevention  
10 of at-risk behaviors.

11 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-195, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-195. A. As funds are available, the State Department  
14 of Education in consultation with the Office of Educational Quality  
15 and Accountability shall administer an induction program for  
16 teachers which shall be approved by the State Board of Education.  
17 Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each school district shall  
18 participate in the induction program. The program shall include,  
19 but not be limited to:

20 1. Guidance to school districts for successful induction  
21 programs;

22 2. Training for school districts to include the selection,  
23 function and duties of mentors; and  
24

1 3. Resources for appropriate professional development, support,  
2 mentorship and coaching for the inductee and mentors.

3 B. The induction program training shall be completed at a  
4 frequency as determined by the board of education.

5 C. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules for  
6 administration of the induction program.

7 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6j,  
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Section 11-103.6j A. The State Department of Education, in  
10 collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of Labor, shall make  
11 available to school districts information regarding workplace safety  
12 training for grades seven through twelve. Such information shall  
13 include the Oklahoma Department of Labor's "Youth @ Work Talking  
14 Safety: A Safety and Health Curriculum for Young Workers".

15 B. The State Department of Education shall encourage school  
16 districts to inform grade-seven through -twelve teachers about the  
17 importance of incorporating workplace safety training in their  
18 curriculum.

19 C. A ~~local~~ school district board of education shall require a  
20 program for seventh-grade through twelfth-grade teachers which shall  
21 emphasize the importance of incorporating workplace safety training  
22 into curriculum. The program shall be completed ~~the first year a~~  
23 ~~certified teacher is employed by a school district, and then at a~~  
24 frequency as determined by the ~~local~~ board.

1 D. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to  
2 implement the provisions of this act.

3 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 24-100.4, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 24-100.4 A. Each school district board of education  
6 shall adopt a policy for the discipline of all children attending  
7 public school in that district, and for the investigation of  
8 reported incidents of bullying. The policy shall provide options  
9 for the discipline of the students and shall define standards of  
10 conduct to which students are expected to conform. The policy  
11 shall:

12 1. Specifically address bullying by students at school and by  
13 electronic communication, if the communication is specifically  
14 directed at students or school personnel and concerns bullying at  
15 school;

16 2. Contain a procedure for reporting an act of bullying to a  
17 school official or law enforcement agency, including a provision  
18 that permits a person to report an act anonymously. No formal  
19 disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an  
20 anonymous report;

21 3. Contain a requirement that any school employee that has  
22 reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect  
23 that a person is a target of bullying shall immediately report it to  
24 the principal or a designee of the principal;

1 4. Contain a statement of how the policy is to be publicized  
2 including a requirement that:

3 a. an annual written notice of the policy be provided to  
4 parents, guardians, staff, volunteers and students,  
5 with age-appropriate language for students,

6 b. notice of the policy be posted at various locations  
7 within each school site, including but not limited to  
8 cafeterias, school bulletin boards, and administration  
9 offices,

10 c. the policy be posted on the Internet website for the  
11 school district and each school site that has an  
12 Internet website, and

13 d. the policy be included in all student and employee  
14 handbooks;

15 5. Require that appropriate school district personnel involved  
16 in investigating reports of bullying make a determination regarding  
17 whether the conduct is actually occurring;

18 6. Contain a procedure for providing timely notification to the  
19 parents or guardians of a victim of documented and verified bullying  
20 and to the parents or guardians of the perpetrator of the documented  
21 and verified bullying;

22 7. Identify by job title the school official responsible for  
23 enforcing the policy;

1 8. Contain procedures for reporting to law enforcement all  
2 documented and verified acts of bullying which may constitute  
3 criminal activity or reasonably have the potential to endanger  
4 school safety;

5 9. Require ~~annual~~ training for administrators and school  
6 employees as developed and provided by the State Department of  
7 Education in preventing, identifying, responding to and reporting  
8 incidents of bullying. The training shall be completed the first  
9 year an administrator or school employee is employed by a school  
10 district, and then once every fifth academic year;

11 10. Provide for an educational program as designed and  
12 developed by the State Department of Education and in consultation  
13 with the Office of Juvenile Affairs for students and parents in  
14 preventing, identifying, responding to and reporting incidents of  
15 bullying;

16 11. Establish a procedure for referral of a person who commits  
17 an act of bullying to a delinquency prevention and diversion program  
18 administered by the Office of Juvenile Affairs;

19 12. Address prevention by providing:

20 a. consequences and remedial action for a person who  
21 commits an act of bullying,

22 b. consequences and remedial action for a student found  
23 to have falsely accused another as a means of  
24 retaliation, reprisal or as a means of bullying, and

1 c. a strategy for providing counseling or referral to  
2 appropriate services, including guidance, academic  
3 intervention, and other protection for students, both  
4 targets and perpetrators, and family members affected  
5 by bullying, as necessary;

6 13. Establish a procedure for:

7 a. the investigation, determination and documentation of  
8 all incidents of bullying reported to school  
9 officials,

10 b. identifying the principal or a designee of the  
11 principal as the person responsible for investigating  
12 incidents of bullying,

13 c. reporting the number of incidents of bullying, and

14 d. determining the severity of the incidents and their  
15 potential to result in future violence;

16 14. Establish a procedure whereby, upon completing an  
17 investigation of bullying, a school may recommend that available  
18 community mental health care, substance abuse or other counseling  
19 options be provided to the student, if appropriate; and

20 15. Establish a procedure whereby a school may request the  
21 disclosure of any information concerning students who have received  
22 mental health, substance abuse, or other care pursuant to paragraph  
23 14 of this subsection that indicates an explicit threat to the  
24 safety of students or school personnel, provided the disclosure of

1 the information does not violate the requirements and provisions of  
2 the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the Health  
3 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Section 2503  
4 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1376 of Title 59 of  
5 the Oklahoma Statutes, or any other state or federal laws regarding  
6 the disclosure of confidential information.

7 B. In developing the policy, the district board of education  
8 shall make an effort to involve the teachers, parents,  
9 administrators, school staff, school volunteers, community  
10 representatives, local law enforcement agencies and students. The  
11 students, teachers, and parents or guardian of every child residing  
12 within a school district shall be notified by the district board of  
13 education of its adoption of the policy and shall receive a copy  
14 upon request. The school district policy shall be implemented in a  
15 manner that is ongoing throughout the school year and is integrated  
16 with other violence prevention efforts.

17 C. The teacher of a child attending a public school shall have  
18 the same right as a parent or guardian to control and discipline  
19 such child according to district policies during the time the child  
20 is in attendance or in transit to or from the school or any other  
21 school function authorized by the school district or classroom  
22 presided over by the teacher.

23 D. Except concerning students on individualized education plans  
24 (IEP) pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

1 (IDEA), P.L. No. 101-476, the State Board of Education shall not  
2 have authority to prescribe student disciplinary policies for school  
3 districts or to proscribe corporal punishment in the public schools.  
4 The State Board of Education shall not have authority to require  
5 school districts to file student disciplinary action reports more  
6 often than once each year and shall not use disciplinary action  
7 reports in determining a school district's or school site's  
8 eligibility for program assistance including competitive grants.

9 E. The board of education of each school district in this state  
10 shall have the option of adopting a dress code for students enrolled  
11 in the school district. The board of education of a school district  
12 shall also have the option of adopting a dress code which includes  
13 school uniforms.

14 F. The board of education of each school district in this state  
15 shall have the option of adopting a procedure that requires students  
16 to perform campus-site service for violating the district's policy.

17 G. The State Board of Education shall:

18 1. Promulgate rules for periodically monitoring school  
19 districts for compliance with this section and providing sanctions  
20 for noncompliance with this section;

21 2. Establish and maintain a central repository for the  
22 collection of information regarding documented and verified  
23 incidents of bullying; and

24



1           3. Publish a report annually on the State Department of  
2 Education website regarding the number of documented and verified  
3 incidents of bullying in the public schools in the state.

4           SECTION 7.           AMENDATORY           70 O.S. 2021, Section 24-100.7, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6           Section 24-100.7 A. The board of education of each school  
7 district in this state shall adopt a policy regarding suicide  
8 awareness and training, requiring staff training and the reporting  
9 of student drug abuse.

10          B. The board of education of each school district in this state  
11 shall provide ~~district-wide~~ training to all staff ~~on a biennial~~  
12 basis members in their first year employed by the school district,  
13 and then once every fifth academic year, addressing suicide  
14 awareness and prevention. The Department of Mental Health and  
15 Substance Abuse Services shall make available to school districts  
16 curriculum for staff which addresses suicide awareness and  
17 prevention, without cost to the school districts. The course  
18 outline for the curriculum shall be made available to the public  
19 online through the school district website. Beginning with the  
20 2021-2022 school year, every school district shall:

21           1. Provide a suicide prevention training program which includes  
22 as a core element evidence-based approaches;

23           2. Provide the curriculum made available by the Department of  
24 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; or

1           3. Provide a suicide prevention training program that is  
2 selected by the school district from a list maintained by the  
3 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to school  
4 district staff that addresses suicide awareness and prevention. The  
5 training program may be combined with any other training provided by  
6 the school district addressing bullying prevention.

7           C. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the board of  
8 education of each school district may provide training to address  
9 suicide awareness and prevention to students in grades seven through  
10 twelve.

11           D. Teachers, counselors, principals, administrators and other  
12 school personnel shall be immune from employment discipline and any  
13 civil liability for:

14           1. Calling the 911 emergency telephone number, law enforcement  
15 or the Department of Human Services if they believe a student poses  
16 a threat to themselves or others or if a student has committed or  
17 been the victim of a violent act or threat of a violent act;

18           2. Providing referral, emergency medical care or other  
19 assistance offered in good faith to a student or other youth; or

20           3. Communicating information in good faith concerning drug or  
21 alcohol abuse or a potential safety threat by or to any student to  
22 the parents or legal guardians of the student, law enforcement  
23 officers or health care providers.

24

1 E. No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or  
2 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the  
3 implementation of this section or resulting from any training, or  
4 lack thereof, required by this section, unless the loss or damage  
5 was caused by willful or wanton misconduct.

6 F. The training required pursuant to this section, or the lack  
7 thereof, shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

8 G. The board of education of each school district may enter  
9 into agreements with designated Youth Services Agencies for the  
10 provision of intervention and prevention services.

11 H. Teachers, counselors, principals, administrators or other  
12 school personnel, upon determining that a student is at risk of  
13 attempting suicide, shall notify the parents or legal guardians of  
14 the student immediately upon determining that such risk exists.

15 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.229-5,  
16 is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1210.229-5 A. The State Superintendent of Public  
18 Instruction and State Department of Education in conjunction with  
19 the Oklahoma Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy Board shall:

- 20 1. Establish objective criteria, guidelines and a comprehensive  
21 integrated curriculum for substance abuse programs and the teaching  
22 of life skills in local schools and school districts;

23  
24

1           2. Establish and review annually model policies for alcohol and  
2 drug abuse issues, including, but not limited to, policies regarding  
3 disciplinary actions and referral for services;

4           3. Develop and implement strategies which encourage all schools  
5 to employ guidance counselors trained in substance abuse prevention  
6 and life skills and to develop and begin implementing quality  
7 substance abuse and life skills education programs; and

8           4. Develop guidelines and criteria to encourage teachers and  
9 administrators to receive in-service training on alcohol and drug  
10 abuse. The training or workshops ~~should~~ shall be included in the  
11 staff development point system. The training or workshop shall be  
12 completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school  
13 district, and then once every ~~third~~ fifth academic year.

14           B. The State Department of Education shall distribute  
15 information or reports provided by the Oklahoma Drug and Alcohol  
16 Abuse Policy Board, to each school district and, upon request, to  
17 members of the public. Upon request of the chief administrator of a  
18 school or school district, the Department shall provide technical  
19 assistance to schools and school districts to implement policies and  
20 programs pursuant to guidelines provided by the Oklahoma Drug and  
21 Alcohol Abuse Policy Board and shall provide a clearinghouse program  
22 accessible by school districts to provide information about life  
23 skills and drug and alcohol abuse prevention curricula and programs.  
24

1 C. Final determination of materials to be used, means of  
2 implementation of the curriculum, and ages and times at which  
3 students receive instruction about ~~said~~ life skills and drug and  
4 alcohol abuse prevention shall be made by the ~~local~~ school district  
5 board of education. The ~~local~~ school district, at least one (1)  
6 month prior to giving such instruction to students, shall conduct  
7 for parents and guardians of students involved, during weekend or  
8 evening hours, at least one presentation concerning the plans for  
9 instruction and the materials to be used. No student shall be  
10 required to receive instruction about ~~said~~ life skills and drug and  
11 alcohol abuse prevention if a parent or guardian of the student  
12 objects in writing.

13 SECTION 9. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

14 SECTION 10. 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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