

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 851

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to school employees; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 509.11, which relates to equal access to employees of a school district; modifying what constitutes access regarding statewide professional educators' associations; prohibiting equal access from being conditional on certain provisions or services; directing certain communications to be classified as promotional events; permitting distribution of certain materials in school mailboxes; prohibiting a school district from requiring a fee or other payment from statewide professional educators' associations for certain activities; requiring certain notification if certain equal access is denied; requiring notification of the State Board of Education if equal access is not granted within certain time period; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 509.11, is amended to read as follows:

Section 509.11. A. No school district, employee of a school district, or employee organization shall deny by any means, including a collective bargaining agreement, a statewide professional educators' association equal access to employees of the

1 school district, to the same extent that access is granted to other
2 educators' associations. For purposes of this section, access shall
3 include, but is not limited to:

4 1. Setting up informational tables at in-service or other
5 similar teacher meetings;

6 2. Speaking at in-service or other similar teacher meetings;

7 3. Distributing information ~~in school mail boxes or~~ through the
8 school e-mail system;

9 4. Utilizing school district meeting rooms during nonworking
10 hours;

11 5. Representing employees in employment matters, when requested
12 by the employee;

13 6. Posting information on school district bulletin boards or
14 other common space displays; and

15 7. ~~Utilizing school district printing services~~ Promotional
16 events.

17 B. Any association which utilizes school district facilities or
18 services shall reimburse the district for any costs incurred by the
19 district due to association activities.

20 C. Equal access shall not be conditional on provisions or
21 services requested by school districts including, but not limited
22 to, furnished meals, snacks, gifts, donations, or other types of
23 sponsored activities.

1 D. Communication by an employee, volunteer, or member of a
2 statewide professional educators' association on behalf of the
3 association or a local affiliate group that pertains to a collective
4 bargaining agreement or negotiated employment contract pursuant to
5 Section 509.2 of this title shall, for the purposes of this section,
6 be classified as a promotional event hosted by the statewide
7 association, and all other statewide professional educators'
8 associations and their employees shall be granted equal access to
9 communicate with school employees to the same extent. For the
10 purposes of this section, communication includes, but is not limited
11 to, presentations, speaking events, meetings, emails, informational
12 displays, and virtual forum posts.

13 E. Distribution of promotional materials to all employees in
14 school mailboxes by employees or associated members of a statewide
15 professional educators' association shall be permitted. Promotional
16 materials may include, but are not limited to, promotional
17 brochures, competitor comparison brochures, informational pamphlets,
18 membership applications, gift items, and association member gifts.

19 F. School districts shall not require a fee or other payment
20 from statewide professional educators' associations for access,
21 promotional material review, promotional material distribution, or
22 other related activities.

1 G. 1. A statewide professional educators' association that is
2 not allowed access as provided for in this section shall notify the
3 board of education of the school district where access was denied.

4 2. Upon notification, if the school district board of education
5 does not ensure equal access is provided to the statewide
6 professional educators' association within fifteen (15) days, the
7 association shall notify the State Board of Education.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

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