

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 854

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 24-106.1, which relates to display of the national motto in schools; requiring rather than allowing display of certain motto in certain places in public schools; 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 24-106.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-106.1. A. Principals and teachers in each public school in this state ~~may~~ shall display in each classroom, school auditorium, and school cafeteria under their supervision the following motto of the United States of America: "E PLURIBUS UNUM (Out of Many, One)" and "IN GOD WE TRUST". For purposes of this subsection, "classroom" means any room of a public school where instruction takes place.

B. Each school district in the state shall permit a principal or teacher to utilize in a public school building, classroom, or at any public school event any grade-level-appropriate excerpts or

1 portions of the documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or
2 records relating to the history, heritage, or foundation of the
3 United States or the State of Oklahoma including, but not limited
4 to, the:

5 1. Mayflower Compact;

6 2. Declaration of Independence;

7 3. Constitutions of the United States and the State of
8 Oklahoma;

9 4. Federalist Papers;

10 5. Pledge of Allegiance;

11 6. National anthem;

12 7. Presidential records and speeches;

13 8. Acts and published records of Congress; and

14 9. United States Supreme Court decisions and records.

15 C. School districts shall not limit or restrain instruction in
16 American or Oklahoma state history or heritage based on religious
17 references in documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or the
18 materials described in subsection B of this section. These and any
19 other materials shall be used for educational purposes only and not
20 to establish or promote any religion.

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

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

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