

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

HOUSE BILL 2258

By: Sterling

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6, as amended by Section 51, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 11-103.6), which relates to subject matter standards; including agricultural power and technology, agricultural communications, or agricultural horticulture in certain curriculum; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6, as amended by Section 51, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 11-103.6), is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.6 A. 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt subject matter standards for instruction of students in the public schools of this state that are necessary to ensure there is attainment of desired levels of competencies in a variety of areas to include language, mathematics, science, social studies, communication, and health and physical education.

2. School districts shall develop and implement curriculum, courses and instruction in order to ensure that students meet the

1 skills and competencies as set forth in this section and in the
2 subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

3 3. All students shall gain literacy at the elementary and
4 secondary levels. Students shall develop skills in reading,
5 writing, speaking, computing and critical thinking. For purposes of
6 this section, critical thinking means a manner of analytical
7 thinking which is logical and uses linear factual analysis to reach
8 a conclusion. They shall learn about cultures and environments -
9 their own and those of others with whom they share the earth. All
10 students shall receive the instruction needed to lead healthy and
11 physically active lifestyles. Students, therefore, shall study
12 social studies, literature, languages, the arts, health, mathematics
13 and science. Such curricula shall provide for the teaching of a
14 hands-on career exploration program in cooperation with technology
15 center schools.

16 4. The subject matter standards shall be designed to teach the
17 competencies for which students shall be tested as provided in
18 Section 1210.508 of this title, and shall be designed to prepare all
19 students for active citizenship, employment and/or successful
20 completion of postsecondary education without the need for remedial
21 coursework at the postsecondary level.

22 5. The subject matter standards shall be designed with rigor as
23 defined in paragraph 3 of subsection G of this section.

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1 6. The subject matter standards for English Language Arts shall
2 give Classic Literature and nonfiction literature equal
3 consideration to other literature. In addition, emphasis shall be
4 given to the study of complete works of literature.

5 7. At a minimum, the subject matter standards for mathematics
6 shall require mastery of the standard algorithms in mathematics,
7 which is the most logical, efficient way of solving a problem that
8 consistently works, and for students to attain fluency in Euclidian
9 geometry.

10 8. The subject matter standards for history, social studies and
11 United States Government shall include study of important historical
12 documents, including the United States Constitution, Declaration of
13 Independence, Emancipation Proclamation, Federalist Papers and other
14 documents with significant history and heritage of the United
15 States, and the content of the United States naturalization test,
16 with an emphasis on the specific content of the test and the ideas
17 and concepts it references. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school
18 year, the United States naturalization test shall be administered in
19 accordance with subsection F of this section.

20 9. The subject matter standards for United States Government
21 shall include an emphasis on civics, the structure and relationship
22 between the national, state, county and local governments and
23 simulations of the democratic process. For the purposes of this
24 section, "civics" means the study of the rights and duties of

1 Oklahoma and United States citizens and of how those governments
2 work.

3 10. The subject matter standards for health and physical
4 education shall include but not be limited to the domains of
5 physical, emotional, social and intellectual health. Health
6 literacy shall include the ability to obtain, process and understand
7 basic health information and services needed to make appropriate
8 health decisions. Health shall also include the importance of
9 proper nutrition and exercise, mental health and wellness, substance
10 abuse, coping skills for understanding and managing trauma,
11 establishing and maintaining positive relationships and responsible
12 decision making. Physical literacy shall include the ability to
13 move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical
14 activities in multiple environments that benefit the healthy
15 development of the whole person.

16 B. Subject to the provisions of subsection C of this section,
17 in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the
18 State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students shall
19 complete the following college preparatory/work-ready curriculum
20 units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

21 1. Four units or sets of competencies of English to include
22 Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course approved for
23 college admission requirements;

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1 2. Three units or sets of competencies of mathematics, limited
2 to Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis,
3 Calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics, or any mathematics course
4 with content and/or rigor above Algebra I and approved for college
5 admission requirements;

6 3. Three units or sets of competencies of laboratory science
7 approved for college admission requirements including one unit or
8 set of competencies of life science meeting the standards for
9 Biology I; one unit or set of competencies of physical science,
10 meeting the standards for Physical Science, Chemistry or Physics;
11 and one unit or set of competencies from the domains of physical
12 science, life science or earth and space science such that the
13 content and rigor is above Biology I or Physical Science;

14 4. Three units or sets of competencies of history and
15 citizenship skills, including one unit of American History, one-half
16 unit of Oklahoma History, one-half unit of United States Government
17 and one unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography,
18 Economics, Civics, or non-Western culture and approved for college
19 admission requirements;

20 5. Two units or sets of competencies of the same world or non-
21 English language or two units of computer technology approved for
22 college admission requirements, whether taught at a high school or a
23 technology center school, including computer programming, hardware,
24 and business computer applications, such as word processing,

1 databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding keyboarding or
2 typing courses;

3 6. One additional unit or set of competencies selected from
4 paragraphs 1 through 5 of this subsection or career and technology
5 education courses, concurrently enrolled courses, Advanced Placement
6 courses or International Baccalaureate courses approved for college
7 admission requirements; and

8 7. One unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music,
9 art, or drama, or one unit or set of competencies of speech, or one
10 unit or set of competencies of agricultural power and technology,
11 agricultural communications, or agricultural horticulture offered by
12 a comprehensive high school career and technology education program.

13 C. In lieu of the requirements of subsection B of this section
14 which requires a college preparatory/work-ready curriculum, a
15 student may enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection
16 D of this section upon written approval of the parent or legal
17 guardian of the student. For students under the age of eighteen
18 (18), school districts shall require a parent or legal guardian of
19 the student to meet with a designee of the school prior to
20 enrollment in the core curriculum. The State Department of
21 Education shall develop and distribute to school districts a form
22 suitable for this purpose, which shall include information on the
23 benefits to students of completing the college preparatory/work-
24 ready curriculum as provided for in subsection B of this section.

1 D. For those students subject to the requirements of subsection
2 C of this section, in order to graduate from a public high school
3 accredited by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma,
4 students shall complete the following core curriculum units or sets
5 of competencies at the secondary level:

6 1. Language Arts - Four units or sets of competencies, to
7 consist of one unit or set of competencies of grammar and
8 composition, and three units or sets of competencies which may
9 include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 10 a. American Literature,
- 11 b. English Literature,
- 12 c. World Literature,
- 13 d. Advanced English Courses, or
- 14 e. other English courses with content and/or rigor equal
15 to or above grammar and composition;

16 2. Mathematics - Three units or sets of competencies to consist
17 of one unit or set of competencies of Algebra I or Algebra I taught
18 in a contextual methodology, and two units or sets of competencies
19 which may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 20 a. Algebra II,
- 21 b. Geometry or Geometry taught in a contextual
22 methodology,
- 23 c. Trigonometry,
- 24 d. Math Analysis or Precalculus,

- 1 e. Calculus,
- 2 f. Statistics and/or Probability,
- 3 g. Computer Science or acceptance and successful
4 completion of one (1) year of a full-time, three-hour
5 career and technology program leading to an industry
6 credential/certificate or college credit. The State
7 Board of Career and Technology Education shall
8 promulgate rules to define the provisions of this
9 section related to the accepted industry-valued
10 credentials which are industry-endorsed or industry-
11 aligned. The list of accepted industry-valued
12 credentials shall be reviewed annually and updated at
13 least every three (3) years by the Board,
- 14 h. (1) contextual mathematics courses which enhance
15 technology preparation, or
- 16 (2) a science, technology, engineering and math
17 (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for
18 course competencies listed in paragraph 2 of
19 subsection B of this section, whether taught at
20 a:
- 21 (a) comprehensive high school, or
- 22 (b) technology center school when taken in the
23 tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by
24 a certified teacher, and approved by the

1 State Board of Education and the independent
2 district board of education,

- 3 i. mathematics courses taught at a technology center
4 school by a teacher certified in the secondary subject
5 area when taken in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth
6 grade upon approval of the State Board of Education
7 and the independent district board of education, or
- 8 j. any other mathematics course with content and/or rigor
9 equal to or above Algebra I;

10 3. Science - Three units or sets of competencies to consist of
11 one unit or set of competencies of Biology I or Biology I taught in
12 a contextual methodology, and two units or sets of competencies in
13 the areas of life, physical, or earth science or technology which
14 may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 15 a. Chemistry I,
- 16 b. Physics,
- 17 c. Biology II,
- 18 d. Chemistry II,
- 19 e. Physical Science,
- 20 f. Earth Science,
- 21 g. Botany,
- 22 h. Zoology,
- 23 i. Physiology,
- 24 j. Astronomy,

- 1 k. Applied Biology/Chemistry,
- 2 l. Applied Physics,
- 3 m. Principles of Technology,
- 4 n. qualified agricultural education courses,
- 5 o. (1) contextual science courses which enhance
- 6 technology preparation, or
- 7 (2) a science, technology, engineering and math
- 8 (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for
- 9 course competencies listed in paragraph 3 of
- 10 subsection B of this section, whether taught at
- 11 a:
- 12 (a) comprehensive high school, or
- 13 (b) technology center school when taken in the
- 14 tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by
- 15 a certified teacher, and approved by the
- 16 State Board of Education and the independent
- 17 district board of education,
- 18 p. science courses taught at a technology center school
- 19 by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area
- 20 when taken in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade
- 21 upon approval of the State Board of Education and the
- 22 independent district board of education, or
- 23 q. other science courses with content and/or rigor equal
- 24 to or above Biology I;

1 4. Social Studies - Three units or sets of competencies, to
2 consist of one unit or set of competencies of United States History,
3 one-half to one unit or set of competencies of United States
4 Government, one-half unit or set of competencies of Oklahoma
5 History, and one-half to one unit or set of competencies which may
6 include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 7 a. World History,
- 8 b. Geography,
- 9 c. Economics,
- 10 d. Anthropology, or
- 11 e. other social studies courses with content and/or rigor
12 equal to or above United States History, United States
13 Government, and Oklahoma History;

14 5. Arts - One unit or set of competencies which may include,
15 but is not limited to, courses in Visual Arts and General Music,
16 agricultural power and technology, agricultural communications, or
17 agricultural horticulture; and

18 6. Computer Education or World Language - One unit or set of
19 competencies of computer technology, whether taught at a high school
20 or a technology center school, including computer programming,
21 hardware and business computer applications, such as word
22 processing, databases, spreadsheets and graphics, excluding
23 keyboarding or typing courses, or one unit or set of competencies of
24 world or non-English language.

1 E. 1. In addition to the curriculum requirements of either
2 subsection B or D of this section, in order to graduate from a
3 public high school accredited by the State Board of Education
4 students shall complete the requirements for a personal financial
5 literacy passport as set forth in the Passport to Financial Literacy
6 Act and any additional course requirements or recommended elective
7 courses as may be established by the State Board of Education and
8 the district school board. School districts shall strongly
9 encourage students to complete two units or sets of competencies of
10 world languages and two units or sets of competencies of physical
11 and health education.

12 2. No student shall receive credit for high school graduation
13 more than once for completion of the same unit or set of
14 competencies to satisfy the curriculum requirements of this section.

15 3. A school district shall not be required to offer every
16 course listed in subsections B and D of this section but shall offer
17 sufficient courses to allow a student to meet the graduation
18 requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

19 F. 1. In addition to the curriculum requirements of either
20 subsection B or D of this section, beginning with ninth graders in
21 the 2021-22 school year, in order to graduate from a public high
22 school accredited by the State Board of Education, students shall
23 pass the United States naturalization test pursuant to the
24 provisions of this subsection.

1 2. School districts shall offer the United States
2 naturalization test to students at least once per school year,
3 beginning as early as eighth grade at the discretion of the school
4 district; provided, any student may retake the exam upon request,
5 and as often as desired, until earning a passing score. For
6 purposes of this subsection, a passing score shall be 60 out of 100
7 questions.

8 3. School districts shall exempt students with disabilities
9 whose individualized education program (IEP), consistent with state
10 law, indicates that the student is to be assessed with alternate
11 achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment
12 Program (OAAP).

13 G. For purposes of this section:

14 1. "Contextual methodology" means academic content and skills
15 taught by utilizing real-world problems and projects in a way that
16 helps students understand the application of that knowledge;

17 2. "Qualified agricultural education courses" means courses
18 that have been determined by the State Board of Education to offer
19 the sets of competencies for one or more science content areas and
20 which correspond to academic science courses. Qualified
21 agricultural education courses shall include, but are not limited
22 to, Horticulture, Plant and Soil Science, Natural Resources and
23 Environmental Science, and Animal Science. The courses shall be
24 taught by teachers certified in agricultural education and comply

1 with all rules of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology
2 Education;

3 3. "Rigor" means a level of difficulty that is thorough,
4 exhaustive and accurate and is appropriate for the grade level;

5 4. "Sets of competencies" means instruction in those skills and
6 competencies that are specified in the subject matter standards
7 adopted by the State Board of Education and other skills and
8 competencies adopted by the Board, without regard to specified
9 instructional time; and

10 5. "Unit" means a Carnegie Unit as defined by the North Central
11 Association's Commission on Schools.

12 H. 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt a plan to
13 ensure that rigor is maintained in the content, teaching
14 methodology, level of expectations for student achievement, and
15 application of learning in all the courses taught to meet the
16 graduation requirements as specified in this section.

17 2. The State Board of Education shall allow as much flexibility
18 at the district level as is possible without diminishing the rigor
19 or undermining the intent of providing these courses. To accomplish
20 this purpose, the State Department of Education shall work with
21 school districts in reviewing and approving courses taught by
22 districts that are not specifically listed in subsections B and D of
23 this section. Options may include, but shall not be limited to,
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1 courses taken by concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, or
2 correspondence, or courses bearing different titles.

3 3. The State Board of Education shall approve an advanced
4 placement computer science course to meet the requirements of course
5 competencies listed in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section
6 if the course is taken in a student's senior year and the student is
7 concurrently enrolled in or has successfully completed Algebra II.

8 4. Technology center school districts may offer programs
9 designed in cooperation with institutions of higher education which
10 have an emphasis on a focused field of career study upon approval of
11 the State Board of Education and the independent district board of
12 education. Students in the tenth grade may be allowed to attend
13 these programs for up to one-half (1/2) of a school day and credit
14 for the units or sets of competencies required in paragraphs 2, 3
15 and 6 of subsection B or D of this section shall be given if the
16 courses are taught by a teacher certified in the secondary subject
17 area; provided, credit for units or sets of competencies pursuant to
18 subsection B of this section shall be approved for college admission
19 requirements.

20 5. If a student enrolls in a concurrent course, the school
21 district shall not be responsible for any costs incurred for that
22 course, unless the school district does not offer enough course
23 selection during the student's secondary grade years to allow the
24 student to receive the courses needed to meet the graduation

1 requirements of this section. If the school district does not offer
2 the necessary course selection during the student's secondary grade
3 years, it shall be responsible for the cost of resident tuition at
4 an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,
5 fees, and books for the concurrent enrollment course, and providing
6 for transportation to and from the institution to the school site.

7 It is the intent of the Legislature that for students enrolled
8 in a concurrent enrollment course which is paid for by the school
9 district pursuant to this paragraph, the institution charge only the
10 supplementary and special service fees that are directly related to
11 the concurrent enrollment course and enrollment procedures for that
12 student. It is further the intent of the Legislature that fees for
13 student activities and student service facilities, including the
14 student health care and cultural and recreational service fees, not
15 be charged to such students.

16 6. Credit for the units or sets of competencies required in
17 subsection B or D of this section shall be given when such units or
18 sets of competencies are taken prior to ninth grade if the teachers
19 are certified or authorized to teach the subjects for high school
20 credit and the required rigor is maintained.

21 7. The three units or sets of competencies in mathematics
22 required in subsection B or D of this section shall be completed in
23 the ninth through twelfth grades. If a student completes any
24 required courses or sets of competencies in mathematics prior to

1 ninth grade, the student may take any other mathematics courses or
2 sets of competencies to fulfill the requirement to complete three
3 units or sets of competencies in grades nine through twelve after
4 the student has satisfied the requirements of subsection B or D of
5 this section.

6 8. All units or sets of competencies required for graduation
7 may be taken in any sequence recommended by the school district.

8 I. As a condition of receiving accreditation from the State
9 Board of Education, all students in grades nine through twelve shall
10 enroll in a minimum of six periods, or the equivalent in block
11 scheduling or other scheduling structure that allows for instruction
12 in sets of competencies, of rigorous academic and/or rigorous
13 vocational courses each day, which may include arts, vocal and
14 instrumental music, speech classes, and physical education classes.

15 J. 1. Academic and vocational-technical courses designed to
16 offer sets of competencies integrated or embedded within the courses
17 that provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills
18 and knowledge in the subject matter standards, as adopted by the
19 State Board of Education, may, upon approval of the Board, in
20 consultation with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology
21 Education if the courses are offered at a technology center school
22 district, be counted for academic credit and toward meeting the
23 graduation requirements of this section.

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1 2. Internet-based courses offered by a technology center school
2 that are taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching
3 and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject
4 matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education
5 and the independent district board of education, be counted for
6 academic credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of
7 this section.

8 3. Internet-based courses or vocational-technical courses
9 utilizing integrated or embedded skills for which no subject matter
10 standards have been adopted by the State Board of Education may be
11 approved by the Board, in consultation with the Oklahoma Department
12 of Career and Technology Education if the courses are offered at a
13 technology center school district, if such courses incorporate
14 standards of nationally recognized professional organizations and
15 are taught by certified teachers.

16 4. Courses offered by a supplemental education organization
17 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and that are
18 taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching and
19 learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject
20 matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education
21 and the school district board of education, be counted for academic
22 credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of this
23 section.

1 K. The State Board of Education shall provide an option for
2 high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels
3 of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of
4 Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the
5 amount of course credits earned.

6 L. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt and
7 approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of
8 specified levels of competencies in each area of the core
9 curriculum.

10 M. Children who have individualized education programs pursuant
11 to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and who
12 satisfy the graduation requirements through the individualized
13 education program for that student shall be awarded a standard
14 diploma.

15 N. Students who enter the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-
16 08 school year who are enrolled in an alternative education program
17 and meet the requirements of their plans leading to high school
18 graduation developed pursuant to Section 1210.568 of this title
19 shall be awarded a standard diploma.

20 O. Any student who completes the curriculum requirements of the
21 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be awarded a
22 standard diploma.

23 P. Any student who successfully completes an advanced
24 mathematics or science course offered pursuant to Section 1210.404

1 of this title shall be granted academic credit toward meeting the
2 graduation requirements pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3, as
3 appropriate, of subsection B or D of this section.

4 Q. For purposes of this section, the courses approved for
5 college admission requirements shall be courses which are approved
6 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for admission to
7 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

8 R. Students who have been denied a standard diploma by the
9 school district in which the student is or was enrolled for failing
10 to meet the requirements of this section may re-enroll in the school
11 district that denied the student a standard diploma following the
12 denial of a standard diploma. The student shall be provided
13 remediation or intervention and the opportunity to complete the
14 curriculum units or sets of competencies required by this section to
15 obtain a standard diploma. Students who re-enroll in the school
16 district to meet the graduation requirements of this section shall
17 be exempt from the hourly instructional requirements of Section 1-
18 111 of this title and the six-period enrollment requirements of this
19 section.

20 S. The State Department of Education shall collect and report
21 data by school site and district on the number of students who
22 enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection D of this
23 section.

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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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