

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 374

By: Mann

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; directing the Accreditation Standards Division of the State Department of Education to be placed under the authority of the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability during certain time period; directing division employees to remain under the Department; directing division employees to make certain reports and recommendations to the Commission until certain date; providing for contractual succession; specifying effectiveness of certain rules; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 445, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-104), which relates to powers and duties of the State Board of Education; directing the Commission to make certain accreditation determinations until certain date and directing the Board to make such determinations beginning on certain date; updating statutory language and references; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.3, which relates to withdrawal or denial of state accreditation; updating statutory references; directing the Commission to take certain action until certain date and directing the Board to take certain action beginning on certain date; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.4, which relates to standards for accreditation of schools; directing the Commission to adopt standards for accreditation until certain date and directing the Board to adopt such standards beginning on certain date; directing standards to be made available for public inspection at the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability until certain date and directing such standards to be made available for public inspection at the State Department of Education beginning on certain date; directing the Office of Educational

1 Quality and Accountability to investigate certain  
2 complaints and make certain report until certain date  
3 and directing the State Department of Education to  
4 conduct such investigations and make such report  
5 beginning on certain date; allowing the Commission to  
6 withdraw certain accreditation until certain date and  
7 allowing the Board to withdraw certain accreditation  
8 beginning on certain date; authorizing the Commission  
9 to close a school under certain circumstances until  
10 certain date and authorizing the Board to close a  
11 school under certain circumstances beginning on  
12 certain date; directing the Commission to provide  
13 certain assistance until certain date and directing  
14 the Board to provide such assistance beginning on  
15 certain date; prohibiting the Commission from  
16 assessing certain penalty under certain circumstances  
17 until certain date and prohibiting the Board from  
18 assessing certain penalty under certain circumstances  
19 beginning on certain date; updating statutory  
20 reference; updating statutory language; amending 70  
21 O.S. 2021, Section 3-116.2, which relates to the  
22 Commission for Educational Quality and  
23 Accountability; updating statutory references;  
24 directing the Commission to assume certain duties  
during certain time period; providing for  
promulgation of rules; providing for codification;  
providing an effective date; and declaring an  
emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-116.7 of Title 70, unless  
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. Upon the effective date of this act and until March 31,  
22 2027, the Accreditation Standards Division of the State Department  
23 of Education shall be placed under the authority of the Commission  
24 for Educational Quality and Accountability. Except as otherwise

1 provided for in this section, the transfer shall include all records  
2 associated with the Accreditation Standards Division.

3 B. Upon the effective date of this act, all employees of the  
4 Accreditation Standards Division of the State Department of  
5 Education, shall remain under the State Department of Education and  
6 shall, until March 31, 2027, make reports and recommendations  
7 regarding accreditation to the Commission.

8 C. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
9 shall succeed to any contractual rights and responsibilities  
10 incurred by the Accreditation Standards Division of the State  
11 Department of Education.

12 D. The rules of the State Board of Education relating to  
13 accreditation of schools in this state that are in effect on the  
14 effective date of this act, shall be enforceable by the Commission  
15 for Educational Quality and Accountability until March 31, 2027.

16 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104, as  
17 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 445, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
18 2024, Section 3-104), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 3-104. A. The supervision of the public school system  
20 of Oklahoma shall be vested in the State Board of Education and,  
21 subject to limitations otherwise provided by law, the State Board of  
22 Education shall:

23 1. Adopt policies and make rules for the operation of the  
24 public school system of the state;

1           2. Appoint, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation of a  
2 secretary, an attorney, and all other personnel necessary for the  
3 proper performance of the functions of the State Board of Education.  
4 The secretary shall not be a member of the Board;

5           3. Submit to the Governor a departmental budget based upon  
6 major functions of the State Department of Education as prepared by  
7 the Superintendent of Public Instruction and supported by detailed  
8 data on needs and proposed operations as partially determined by the  
9 budgetary needs of local school districts filed with the State Board  
10 of Education for the ensuing fiscal year. Appropriations therefor  
11 shall be made in lump-sum form for each major item in the budget as  
12 follows:

- 13           a. State Aid to schools,
- 14           b. the supervision of all other functions of general and  
15           special education including general control, free  
16           textbooks, school lunch, Indian education, and all  
17           other functions of the Board and an amount sufficient  
18           to adequately staff and administer these services, and
- 19           c. the Board shall determine the details by which the  
20           budget and the appropriations are administered.

21           Annually, the Board shall make preparations to  
22           consolidate all of the functions of the Department in  
23           such a way that the budget can be based on two items,  
24           administration and aid to schools. A maximum amount  
25

1           for administration shall be designated as a part of  
2           the total appropriation;

3           4. On the first day of December preceding each regular session  
4 of the Legislature, prepare and deliver electronically to the  
5 Governor and the Legislature a report for the year ending June 30  
6 immediately preceding the regular session of the Legislature. The  
7 report shall contain:

8           a. detailed statistics and other information concerning  
9 enrollment, attendance, expenditures including State  
10 Aid, and other pertinent data for all public schools  
11 in this state,

12           b. reports from each and every division within the State  
13 Department of Education as submitted by the  
14 Superintendent of Public Instruction and any other  
15 division, department, institution, or other agency  
16 under the supervision of the Board,

17           c. recommendations for the improvement of the public  
18 school system of the state,

19           d. a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the  
20 State Board of Education for the past year, and

21           e. a statement of plans and recommendations for the  
22 management and improvement of public schools and such  
23 other information relating to the educational

1 interests of the state as may be deemed necessary and  
2 desirable;

3 5. Provide for the formulation and adoption of curricula,  
4 courses of study, and other instructional aids necessary for the  
5 adequate instruction of pupils in the public schools;

6 6. Have authority in matters pertaining to the licensure and  
7 certification of persons for instructional, supervisory, and  
8 administrative positions and services in the public schools of the  
9 state subject to the provisions of Section 6-184 of this title, and  
10 shall formulate rules governing the issuance and revocation of  
11 certificates for superintendents of schools, principals,  
12 supervisors, librarians, clerical employees, school nurses, school  
13 bus drivers, visiting teachers, classroom teachers, and for other  
14 personnel performing instructional, administrative, and supervisory  
15 services, but not including members of boards of education and other  
16 employees who do not work directly with pupils, and may charge and  
17 collect reasonable fees for the issuance of such certificates:

18 a. the State Department of Education shall not issue a  
19 certificate to and shall revoke the certificate of any  
20 person who has been convicted, whether upon a verdict  
21 or plea of guilty or upon a plea of nolo contendere,  
22 or received a suspended sentence or any probationary  
23 term for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime  
24 provided for in Section 843.5 of Title 21 of the  
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1 Oklahoma Statutes if the offense involved sexual abuse  
2 or sexual exploitation as those terms are defined in  
3 Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
4 Section 741, 843.1, if the offense included sexual  
5 abuse or sexual exploitation, 865 et seq., 885, 888,  
6 891, 1021, 1021.2, 1021.3, 1040.13a, 1087, 1088,  
7 1111.1, 1114, or 1123 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma  
8 Statutes or who enters this state and who has been  
9 convicted, received a suspended sentence, or received  
10 a deferred judgment for a crime or attempted crime  
11 which, if committed or attempted in this state, would  
12 be a crime or an attempt to commit a crime provided  
13 for in any of the laws, and

14 b. all funds collected by the State Department of  
15 Education for the issuance of certificates to  
16 instructional, supervisory, and administrative  
17 personnel in the public schools of the state shall be  
18 deposited in the "Teachers' Certification Fund" in the  
19 State Treasury and may be expended by the State Board  
20 of Education to finance the activities of the State  
21 Department of Education necessary to administer the  
22 program, for consultative services, publication costs,  
23 actual and necessary travel expenses as provided in  
24 the State Travel Reimbursement Act incurred by persons

1 performing research work, and other expenses found  
2 necessary by the State Board of Education for the  
3 improvement of the preparation and certification of  
4 teachers in this state. Provided, any unobligated  
5 balance in the Teachers' Certification Fund in excess  
6 of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) on June 30 of any  
7 fiscal year shall be transferred to the General  
8 Revenue Fund of this state. Until July 1, 1997, the  
9 State Board of Education shall have authority for  
10 approval of teacher education programs. The State  
11 Board of Education shall also have authority for the  
12 administration of teacher residency and professional  
13 development, subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma  
14 Teacher Preparation Act;

15 7. Promulgate rules governing the classification, inspection,  
16 and supervision, ~~and accrediting~~ of all public nursery,  
17 kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools, and on-site  
18 educational services provided by public school districts or state-  
19 accredited private schools in partial hospitalization programs, day  
20 treatment programs, and day hospital programs as defined in ~~this~~  
21 ~~section,~~ Section 3-104.7 of this title, and Section ~~603.4~~ 175.20 of  
22 Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes for persons between the ages of  
23 three (3) and twenty-one (21) years of age in the state. Beginning  
24 on the effective date of this act until March 31, 2027, the

1 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall enforce  
2 rules governing the accreditation of all public nursery,  
3 kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools, and on-site  
4 educational services provided by public school districts or state-  
5 accredited private schools in partial hospitalization programs, day  
6 treatment programs, and day hospital programs as defined in Section  
7 3-104.7 of this title and Section 175.20 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma  
8 Statutes for persons between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one  
9 (21) years of age in this state. Beginning April 1, 2027, the Board  
10 shall promulgate rules governing the accrediting of all public  
11 nursery, kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools, and on-  
12 site educational services provided by public school districts or  
13 state-accredited private schools in partial hospitalization  
14 programs, day treatment programs, and day hospital programs as  
15 defined in Section 3-104.7 of this title and Section 175.20 of Title  
16 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes for persons between the ages of three  
17 (3) and twenty-one (21) years of age in the state. However,  
18 beginning on the effective date of this act until March 31, 2027, no  
19 school shall be denied accreditation by the Commission for  
20 Educational Quality and Accountability solely on the basis of  
21 average daily attendance. Beginning April 1, 2027, no school shall  
22 be denied accreditation by the Board solely on the basis of average  
23 daily attendance.

1 Any school district which maintains an elementary school and  
2 faces the necessity of relocating its school facilities because of  
3 construction of a lake, either by state or federal authority, which  
4 will inundate the school facilities, shall be entitled to receive  
5 probationary accreditation from the Commission for Educational  
6 Quality and Accountability beginning on the effective date of this  
7 act, and beginning April 1, 2027, from the State Board of Education  
8 for a period of five (5) years after June 12, 1975, and any school  
9 district, otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to receive  
10 probationary accreditation from the Commission until March 31, 2027,  
11 and beginning April 1, 2027, from the State Board of Education for a  
12 period of two (2) consecutive years to attain the minimum average  
13 daily attendance. The Head Start and public nurseries or  
14 kindergartens operated from community action agency funds shall not  
15 be subjected to the accrediting rules of the Commission until March  
16 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, from the State Board of  
17 Education. Neither will the Commission until March 31, 2027, and  
18 beginning April 1, 2027, neither will the State Board of Education  
19 make rules affecting the operation of the public nurseries and  
20 kindergartens operated from federal funds secured through community  
21 action agencies even though they may be operating in the public  
22 schools of the state. However, any of the Head Start or public  
23 nurseries or kindergartens operated under federal regulations may  
24 make application for accrediting from the Commission until March 31,

1 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, from the State Board of Education  
2 but will be accredited only if application for the approval of the  
3 programs is made. The status of no school district shall be changed  
4 which will reduce it to a lower classification until due notice has  
5 been given to the proper authorities thereof and an opportunity  
6 given to correct the conditions which otherwise would be the cause  
7 of such reduction.

8 Private and parochial schools may be accredited and classified  
9 in like manner as public schools or, if an accrediting association  
10 is approved by the State Board of Education, by procedures  
11 established by the State Board of Education to accept accreditation  
12 by such accrediting association, if application is made to the State  
13 Board of Education for such accrediting;

14 8. Be the legal agent of this state to accept, in its  
15 discretion, the provisions of any Act of Congress appropriating or  
16 apportioning funds which are now, or may hereafter be, provided for  
17 use in connection with any phase of the system of public education  
18 in Oklahoma. It shall prescribe such rules as it finds necessary to  
19 provide for the proper distribution of such funds in accordance with  
20 the state and federal laws;

21 9. Be and is specifically hereby designated as the agency of  
22 this state to cooperate and deal with any officer, board, or  
23 authority of the United States Government under any law of the  
24 United States which may require or recommend cooperation with any  
25

1 state board having charge of the administration of public schools  
2 unless otherwise provided by law;

3 10. Be and is hereby designated as the ~~"State Educational~~  
4 ~~Agency"~~ state educational agency referred to in Public Law 396 of  
5 the 79th Congress of the United States, as amended, which ~~law states~~  
6 ~~that the act~~ may be ~~cited~~ known as the ~~"National~~ Richard B. Russell  
7 National School Lunch Act ~~Act~~, and the State Board of Education is  
8 hereby authorized and directed to accept the terms and provisions of  
9 the act and to enter into such agreements, not in conflict with the  
10 Constitution of Oklahoma or the Constitution and Statutes of the  
11 United States, as may be necessary or appropriate to secure for this  
12 state the benefits of the school lunch program established and  
13 referred to in the act;

14 11. Have authority to secure and administer the benefits of the  
15 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, Public Law 396 of the  
16 79th Congress of the United States, as amended, in this state and is  
17 hereby authorized to employ or appoint and fix the compensation of  
18 such additional officers or employees and to incur such expenses as  
19 may be necessary for the accomplishment of the above purpose, and  
20 administer the distribution of any state funds appropriated by the  
21 Legislature required as federal matching to reimburse on children's  
22 meals;

23 12. Accept and provide for the administration of any land,  
24 money, buildings, gifts, ~~donation~~ donations, or other things of  
25

1 value which may be offered or bequeathed to the schools under the  
2 supervision or control of the Board;

3 13. Have authority to require persons having administrative  
4 control of all school districts in Oklahoma to make such regular and  
5 special reports regarding the activities of the schools in the  
6 districts as the Board may deem needful for the proper exercise of  
7 its duties and functions. Such authority shall include the right of  
8 the State Board of Education to withhold all state funds under its  
9 control, and to withhold official recognition including accrediting,  
10 until such required reports have been filed and accepted in the  
11 office of the Board and to revoke the certificates of persons  
12 failing or refusing to make such reports. Until March 31, 2027, the  
13 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, and beginning  
14 April 1, 2027, the State Board of Education shall have the authority  
15 to withhold accreditation until such required reports have been  
16 filed and accepted and to revoke the certificates of persons failing  
17 or refusing to make such reports;

18 14. Have general supervision of the school lunch program. The  
19 State Board of Education may sponsor workshops for personnel and  
20 participants in the school lunch program and may develop, print, and  
21 distribute free of charge or sell any materials, books, and  
22 bulletins to be used in the school lunch programs. There is hereby  
23 created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Board, to be  
24 designated the "School Lunch Workshop Revolving Fund". The fund

1 shall consist of all fees derived from or on behalf of any  
2 participant in any such workshop sponsored by the State Board of  
3 Education, or from the sale of any materials, books, and bulletins,  
4 and funds shall be disbursed for expenses of such workshops and for  
5 developing, printing, and distributing of the materials, books, and  
6 bulletins relating to the school lunch program. The fund shall be  
7 administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title 62 of the  
8 Oklahoma Statutes;

9 15. Prescribe all forms for school district and county officers  
10 to report to the State Board of Education where required. The State  
11 Board of Education shall also prescribe a list of appropriation  
12 accounts by which the funds of school districts shall be budgeted,  
13 accounted for, and expended; and it shall be the duty of the State  
14 Auditor and Inspector in prescribing all budgeting, accounting, and  
15 reporting forms for school funds to conform to such lists;

16 16. Provide for the establishment of a uniform system of pupil  
17 and personnel accounting, records, and reports;

18 17. Have authority to provide for the health and safety of  
19 school children and school personnel while under the jurisdiction of  
20 school authorities;

21 18. Provide for the supervision of the transportation of  
22 pupils;

1 19. Have authority, upon request of the local school board, to  
2 act in behalf of the public schools of the state in the purchase of  
3 transportation equipment;

4 20. Have authority and is hereby required to perform all duties  
5 necessary to the administration of the public school system in  
6 Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School Code; and, in addition  
7 thereto, those duties not specifically mentioned herein if not  
8 delegated by law to any other agency or official;

9 21. Administer the State Public Common School Building  
10 Equalization Fund established by Section 32 of Article X of the  
11 Oklahoma Constitution. Any monies as may be appropriated or  
12 designated by the Legislature, other than ad valorem taxes, any  
13 other funds identified by the State Department of Education, which  
14 may include, but not be limited to, grants-in-aid from the federal  
15 government for building purposes, the proceeds of all property that  
16 shall fall to the state by escheat, penalties for unlawful holding  
17 of real estate by corporations, and capital gains on assets of the  
18 permanent school funds, shall be deposited in the State Public  
19 Common School Building Equalization Fund. The fund shall be used to  
20 aid school districts and charter schools in acquiring buildings,  
21 subject to the limitations fixed by Section 32 of Article X of the  
22 Oklahoma Constitution. It is hereby declared that redbud school  
23 grants disbursed from the State Public Common School Building  
24 Equalization Fund shall be used for the same purposes as a building

1 fund, as provided for in Section 1-118 of this title. It is hereby  
2 declared that the term "school districts" as used in Section 32 of  
3 Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall mean school districts  
4 and eligible charter schools as defined in subsection B of this  
5 section. The State Board of Education shall disburse redbud school  
6 grants annually from the State Public Common School Building  
7 Equalization Fund to public schools and eligible charter schools  
8 pursuant to subsection B of this section. The Board shall  
9 promulgate rules for the implementation of disbursing redbud school  
10 grants pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education shall  
11 prescribe rules for making grants of aid from, and for otherwise  
12 administering, the fund pursuant to the provisions of this  
13 paragraph, and may employ and fix the duties and compensation of  
14 technicians, aides, clerks, stenographers, attorneys, and other  
15 personnel deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
16 paragraph. The cost of administering the fund shall be paid from  
17 monies appropriated to the State Board of Education for the  
18 operation of the State Department of Education. From monies  
19 apportioned to the fund, the State Department of Education may  
20 reserve not more than one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) for  
21 purposes of administering the fund;

22 22. Recognize that the Director of the Department of  
23 Corrections shall be the administrative authority for the schools  
24 which are maintained in the state reformatories and shall appoint

1 the principals and teachers in such schools. Provided, that rules  
2 of the State Board of Education for the classification, and  
3 ~~inspection, and accreditation~~ of public schools shall be applicable  
4 to such schools; and such schools shall comply with ~~standards set~~  
5 rules adopted by the State Board of Education. Until March 31,  
6 2027, the rules of the Commission for Educational Quality and  
7 Accountability, and beginning April 1, 2027, the rules of the Board  
8 for accreditation of public schools shall be applicable to such  
9 schools; and

10 23. Have authority to administer a revolving fund which is  
11 hereby created in the State Treasury, to be designated the  
12 "Statistical Services Revolving Fund". The fund shall consist of  
13 all monies received from the various school districts of the state,  
14 the United States Government, and other sources for the purpose of  
15 furnishing or financing statistical services and for any other  
16 purpose as designated by the Legislature. The State Board of  
17 Education is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with school  
18 districts, municipalities, the United States Government,  
19 foundations, and other agencies or individuals for services,  
20 programs, or research projects. The Statistical Services Revolving  
21 Fund shall be administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title  
22 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

23 B. 1. The redbud school grants shall be determined by the  
24 State Department of Education as follows:

- 1 a. divide the county four-mill levy revenue by four to  
2 determine the nonchargeable county four-mill revenue  
3 for each school district,
- 4 b. determine the amount of new revenue generated by the  
5 five-mill building fund levy as authorized by Section  
6 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution for each  
7 school district as reported in the Oklahoma Cost  
8 Accounting System for the preceding fiscal year,
- 9 c. add the amounts calculated in subparagraphs a and b of  
10 this paragraph to determine the nonchargeable millage  
11 for each school district,
- 12 d. add the nonchargeable millage in each district  
13 statewide as calculated in subparagraph c of this  
14 paragraph and divide the total by the average daily  
15 membership in public schools statewide based on the  
16 preceding school year's average daily membership,  
17 according to the provisions of Section 18-107 of this  
18 title. This amount is the statewide nonchargeable  
19 millage per student, known as the baseline local  
20 funding per student,
- 21 e. all eligible charter schools shall be included in  
22 these calculations as unique school districts,  
23 separate from the school district that may sponsor the  
24 eligible charter school, and the total number of  
25

1 districts shall be used to determine the statewide  
2 average baseline local funding per student,

3 f. for each school district or eligible charter school  
4 which is below the baseline local funding per student,  
5 the Department shall subtract the baseline local  
6 funding per student from the average nonchargeable  
7 millage per student of the school district or eligible  
8 charter school to determine the nonchargeable millage  
9 per student shortfall for each district, and

10 g. the nonchargeable millage per student shortfall for a  
11 school district or eligible charter school shall be  
12 multiplied by the average daily membership of the  
13 preceding school year of the eligible school district  
14 or eligible charter school. This amount shall be the  
15 redbud school grant amount for the school district or  
16 eligible charter school.

17 2. For fiscal year 2022, monies for the redbud school grants  
18 shall be expended from the funds apportioned pursuant to Section 426  
19 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. For fiscal year 2023 and each  
20 subsequent fiscal year, monies for the redbud school grants shall be  
21 appropriated pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma  
22 Statutes, not to exceed three-fourths (3/4) of the tax collected in  
23 the preceding fiscal year pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the  
24 Oklahoma Statutes as determined by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. For

1 fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year, if such  
2 appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the redbud school  
3 grants, then an additional apportionment of funds shall be made from  
4 sales tax collections as provided by subsection D of Section 1353 of  
5 Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If both funds are insufficient,  
6 the Department shall promulgate rules to permit a decrease to the  
7 baseline local funding per student to the highest amount allowed  
8 with the funding available.

9 3. As used in this section, "eligible charter school" shall  
10 mean a charter school which is sponsored pursuant to the provisions  
11 of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Provided, however, eligible  
12 charter school shall not include a statewide virtual charter school  
13 sponsored by the Statewide Charter School Board but shall only  
14 include those which provide in-person or blended instruction, as  
15 provided by Section 1-111 of this title, to not less than two-thirds  
16 (2/3) of students as the primary means of instructional service  
17 delivery.

18 4. The Department shall develop a program to acknowledge the  
19 redbud school grant recipients and shall include elected members of  
20 the House of Representatives and Senate who represent the school  
21 districts and eligible charter schools.

22 5. The Department shall create a dedicated page on its website  
23 listing annual redbud school grant recipients, amount awarded to  
24  
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1 each recipient, and other pertinent information about the Redbud  
2 School Funding Act.

3 6. The Department shall provide the chair of the House  
4 Appropriations and Budget Committee and the chair of the Senate  
5 Appropriations Committee no later than February 1 of each year with  
6 an estimate of the upcoming year's redbud school grant allocation as  
7 prescribed by this section.

8 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.3, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 3-104.3. A. The Legislature, recognizing its  
11 obligation to the children of this state to ensure their opportunity  
12 to receive an excellent education, and recognizing its obligation to  
13 the taxpayers of this state to ensure that schooling is accomplished  
14 in an efficient manner, hereby establishes requirements for  
15 compliance with quality standards which the public schools and  
16 school districts, within the limits of resources now or subsequently  
17 available, must meet.

18 B. State accreditation shall be withdrawn from or denied to  
19 schools or school districts that do not meet the requirements of  
20 Sections ~~2~~ 3-104.4, ~~3~~ 11-103, ~~6~~ 11-103.6, ~~28~~ 18-113.1, ~~29~~ 18-113.2,  
21 ~~30~~ 18-113.3, ~~44, 45, 46, 47, 48~~ 18-114.15, and ~~49~~ 5-141 of this ~~act~~  
22 title, and until March 31, 2027, the Commission for Educational  
23 Quality and Accountability, and beginning April 1, 2027, the State  
24 Board of Education shall take action as required by this ~~act~~ section

1 to ensure that students affected are enrolled in schools that are  
2 able to maintain state accreditation. Nothing herein shall be  
3 construed as prohibiting the withdrawing or denial of accreditation  
4 for failure to meet requirements as elsewhere provided by law.

5 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.4, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 3-104.4. A. The Until March 31, 2027, the Commission  
8 for Educational Quality and Accountability, and beginning April 1,  
9 2027, the State Board of Education shall adopt standards for the  
10 accreditation of the public schools in this state according to the  
11 requirements of Section 3-104.3 et seq. of this title, to be  
12 effective as set forth in Section 3-104.3 et seq. of this title.  
13 The accreditation standards shall incorporate the curricular  
14 standards established pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of this title.  
15 The accreditation standards shall equal or exceed nationally  
16 recognized accreditation standards to the extent that the standards  
17 are consistent with an academic results oriented approach to  
18 accreditation. The accreditation adopted by the ~~State~~ Commission  
19 for Educational Quality and Accountability until March 31, 2027, and  
20 beginning April 1, 2027, the accreditation adopted by the Board  
21 shall encompass accreditation for elementary schools, middle  
22 schools, junior high schools, and high schools. The accreditation  
23 standards shall be made available for public inspection at the  
24 offices of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability

1 until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, at the offices of  
2 the State Department of Education.

3 B. Standards for accreditation adopted by the Commission for  
4 Educational Quality and Accountability until March 31, 2027, and  
5 beginning April 1, 2027, standards for accreditation adopted by the  
6 State Board of Education shall include standards relating to the  
7 provision of school counselors to the public school children of this  
8 state. ~~The~~ Until March 31, 2027, the Commission, and beginning  
9 April 1, 2027, the State Board of Education shall require each local  
10 school district to provide information regarding the number of  
11 counselors serving each school site, the duties of all such  
12 counselors including all administrative duties, the number of  
13 students served by each counselor, and information regarding the  
14 number of counselors employed per elementary school, middle school,  
15 junior high school, and high school.

16 C. Except as otherwise provided, schools shall meet the  
17 accreditation standards as a condition of continued accreditation.  
18 Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing changes to the  
19 adopted standards by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
20 Accountability until March 31, 2027, and by the State Board of  
21 Education beginning April 1, 2027, pursuant to the Administrative  
22 Procedures Act. The accreditation standards shall provide for  
23 warnings, probation, or nonaccredited status for schools that fail  
24 to meet the standards. ~~The~~ Until March 31, 2027, the Office of

1 Educational Quality and Accountability, and beginning April 1, 2027,  
2 the Department shall investigate a complaint of failure to provide  
3 educational services or failure to comply with accreditation  
4 standards within thirty (30) days of receiving the complaint. If  
5 the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability until March 31,  
6 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, the Department determines that a  
7 school has failed to comply with the accreditation standards, the  
8 Office until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, the  
9 Department shall report the recommended warning, probation, or  
10 nonaccredited accreditation status to the Commission for Educational  
11 Quality and Accountability until March 31, 2027, and beginning April  
12 1, 2027, to the State Board of Education within ninety (90) days.  
13 If a school does not take action to comply with the accreditation  
14 standards within ninety (90) days after a report is filed by the  
15 Office until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, by the  
16 Department, the Commission for Educational Quality and  
17 Accountability until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027,  
18 the Board shall withdraw accreditation for the school. ~~The State~~  
19 ~~Board~~ Until March 31, 2027, the Commission's accreditation  
20 regulations, and beginning April 1, 2027, the Board's accreditation  
21 regulations shall provide for warnings and for assistance to schools  
22 and school districts whenever there is reason to believe a school is  
23 in danger of losing its state accreditation.

1 D. If one or more school sites fail to receive accreditation as  
2 required pursuant to this section or subsequently lose  
3 accreditation, the Commission for Educational Quality and  
4 Accountability until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027,  
5 the State Board of Education shall close the school and reassign the  
6 students to accredited schools within the district or shall annex  
7 the district to one or more other districts in which the students  
8 can be educated in accredited schools.

9 E. Standards for accreditation adopted by the Commission for  
10 Educational Quality and Accountability until March 31, 2027, and  
11 beginning April 1, 2027, by the State Board of Education shall  
12 include standards relating to the provision of educational services  
13 provided in partial hospitalization programs, day treatment  
14 programs, day hospital programs, residential treatment programs, and  
15 emergency shelter programs for persons between the ages of three (3)  
16 and twenty-one (21) years of age. The accreditation standards shall  
17 apply to on-site and off-site educational services provided by  
18 public school districts or state-accredited private schools. Each  
19 school which is providing or is required to provide educational  
20 services for students placed in a program as described in this  
21 subsection shall be actively monitored by the State Department of  
22 Education. The Department shall determine on an ongoing basis if  
23 the educational program and services are in compliance with the  
24 accreditation standards.

1 F. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
2 until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, the State Board  
3 of Education shall provide assistance to districts in considering  
4 the possibility of meeting accreditation requirements through the  
5 use of nontraditional means of instruction. The ~~State~~ Commission  
6 until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, the Board shall  
7 also assist districts in forming cooperatives and making  
8 arrangements for the use of satellite instruction or other  
9 instructional technologies to the extent that use of such  
10 instructional means meets accreditation standards.

11 G. 1. Accreditation shall not be withdrawn from or denied nor  
12 shall a penalty be assessed against a school or school district for  
13 failing to meet the media materials and equipment standards, media  
14 program expenditure standards, and media personnel standards as set  
15 forth in the accreditation standards adopted by the Commission for  
16 Educational Quality and Accountability until March 31, 2027, and  
17 beginning April 1, 2027, by the Board.

18 2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall cease  
19 to be effective during the fiscal year which begins on the July 1  
20 immediately succeeding the legislative session during which the  
21 measure appropriating monies to the State Board of Education for the  
22 financial support of public schools is enacted as law and such  
23 appropriation amount is at least Fifty Million Dollars  
24 (\$50,000,000.00) greater than the amount of money appropriated to  
25

1 the State Board of Education for the financial support of public  
2 schools for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, pursuant to  
3 Chapter 146, O.S.L. 2018. Provided, the Fifty Million Dollars  
4 (\$50,000,000.00) shall not include any amount of appropriations  
5 dedicated for support or certified employee salary increases.  
6 Accreditation shall not be withdrawn from or denied nor shall a  
7 penalty be assessed against a school or school district for failing  
8 to meet the media personnel standards as set forth in accreditation  
9 standards adopted by the Commission until March 31, 2027, and  
10 beginning April 1, 2027, by the Board.

11 H. 1. The ~~State~~ Commission for Educational Quality and  
12 Accountability until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027,  
13 the Board shall not assess a financial penalty against any school  
14 district which is given a deficiency in accreditation status during  
15 any fiscal year as provided for in this subsection.

16 2. Beginning with the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2021, if  
17 the amount of money appropriated to the State Board of Education for  
18 the financial support of public schools including funds apportioned  
19 pursuant to Section ~~2~~ 426 of ~~this act~~ Title 63 of the Oklahoma  
20 Statutes, is at least One Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000.00)  
21 greater than the amount of money appropriated to the State Board of  
22 Education for the financial support of public schools for the fiscal  
23 year ending June 30, 2019, pursuant to Chapter 146, O.S.L. 2018, a  
24 financial penalty shall be assessed against any school districts

1 that do not comply with the class size limitations for kindergarten  
2 as provided for in Section 18-113.2 of this title and class size  
3 limitations for grade one as provided for in subsection A of Section  
4 18-113.1 of this title. Provided, the One Hundred Million Dollars  
5 (\$100,000,000.00) shall not include any amount of appropriations  
6 dedicated for support or certified employee salary increases.

7 3. The State Department of Education shall submit a report on  
8 statewide classroom sizes to the President Pro Tempore of the  
9 ~~Oklahoma State~~ Senate and the Speaker of the ~~Oklahoma~~ House of  
10 Representatives no later than January 1, 2022.

11 I. Except as provided for in subsection J of this section,  
12 beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, evaluations of schools to  
13 determine whether they meet the accreditation standards set forth in  
14 accordance with this section shall occur once every four (4) years  
15 on a schedule adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
16 Accountability until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, by  
17 the State Board of Education. The Commission until March 31, 2027,  
18 and beginning April 1, 2027, the Board may interrupt the evaluation  
19 schedule provided in this subsection for reasons including a change  
20 in the superintendent of the school district; determination that one  
21 or more school district board members have not met the continuing  
22 education requirements as defined by this title; determination that  
23 the school district falsified information submitted to any public  
24 city, county, state, or federal official or agency; initiation of an

1 investigation by the Commission until March 31, 2027, and by the  
2 Board beginning April 1, 2027, or a law enforcement agency; or other  
3 determination by the Commission until March 31, 2027, and beginning  
4 April 1, 2027, by the Board that standards for accreditation are not  
5 being met by the school district. The schedule adopted by the  
6 Commission until March 31, 2027, and beginning April 1, 2027, by the  
7 Board shall allow for school districts receiving no deficiencies for  
8 two (2) consecutive years to be reviewed for accreditation less than  
9 annually. Provided, however, that schools shall be evaluated  
10 annually for the purposes of:

- 11 1. Local, state, and federal funding;
- 12 2. Health and safety;
- 13 3. Certification requirements for teachers, principals, and  
14 superintendents;
- 15 4. School board governance, including instructional and  
16 continuing education requirements for school board members; and  
17 5. Any other requirements under state or federal law.

18 J. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, if a public school  
19 receives a deficiency on its accreditation report, the public school  
20 shall be evaluated annually to determine if it meets the  
21 accreditation standards set forth in accordance with this section.  
22 If the public school receives no deficiencies for two (2)  
23 consecutive years, the public school shall be subject to the  
24 evaluation timeline established in subsection I of this section.

1 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-116.2, is

2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 3-116.2. A. Effective January 1, 2013, there is hereby  
4 created the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability.

5 The membership of the Commission shall consist of:

6 1. The Secretary of Education, who shall serve as the chair of  
7 the Commission;

8 2. One member appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
9 consent of the Senate, representing business and industry from an  
10 Oklahoma employer with five hundred (500) or fewer employees;

11 3. One member appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
12 consent of the Senate, who is a parent of a child enrolled in a  
13 public school in this state;

14 4. One member appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
15 consent of the Senate, who is an administrator of a public school  
16 district;

17 5. One member appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
18 consent of the Senate, who shall represent higher education teacher  
19 education programs;

20 6. One member appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
21 consent of the Senate, who shall be an active classroom teacher in  
22 kindergarten through grade six; and

1           7. One member appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
2 consent of the Senate, who shall be an active classroom teacher in  
3 grades seven through twelve.

4           The terms of the initial appointed members shall commence on  
5 January 1, 2013, and shall end on June 30, 2014. The terms of  
6 subsequently appointed members shall commence on July 1 of each year  
7 following the election of the Governor thereafter and shall be for  
8 four (4) years. If a vacancy occurs, the vacancy shall be filled  
9 for the unexpired term in the same manner as the office was  
10 previously filled.

11           B. A quorum of the Commission, which shall consist of four  
12 members, shall be present in order for the Commission to transact  
13 any business. Members shall be reimbursed for travel in the  
14 performance of their official duties in accordance with the State  
15 Travel Reimbursement Act.

16           C. Prior to July 1, 2013, the Commission shall meet to organize  
17 and plan for the assumption of the powers and duties of the  
18 Education Oversight Board and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
19 Preparation.

20           D. Beginning July 1, 2013, the Commission shall assume the  
21 following duties:

22           1. Oversee implementation of the provisions of Enrolled House  
23 Bill No. 1017 of the 1st Extraordinary Session of the 42nd Oklahoma  
24 Legislature;

1           2. Implementation of the provisions of the Oklahoma Teacher  
2 Preparation Act as provided for in law;

3           3. Make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on  
4 methods to achieve an aligned, seamless system from preschool  
5 through postsecondary education; and

6           4. Set performance levels and corresponding cut scores pursuant  
7 to the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act and as provided for in  
8 Section 1210.541 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

9           E. Beginning July 1, 2013, the Commission shall govern the  
10 operation of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability  
11 created in Section 3-117 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this  
12 title.

13           F. 1. Beginning July 1, 2014, the Commission shall assume the  
14 following duties of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation  
15 according to the provisions of the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

16               a. approval and accreditation of teacher education  
17 programs, and

18               b. assessment of candidates for licensure and  
19 certification.

20           2. To implement the provisions of this subsection the  
21 Commission shall:

22               a. include the State Board of Education in the process,

23               b. review and assess approved, accredited, and new  
24 programs of teacher education, and  
25

1 c. encourage studies and research designed to improve  
2 teacher education.

3 G. Upon the effective date of this act and until March 31,  
4 2027, the Commission shall assume the following duties:

5 1. Adoption of standards for the accreditation of public  
6 schools in this state pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-104.4  
7 of this title; and

8 2. Evaluating schools to determine whether they meet the  
9 accreditation standards adopted by the Commission.

10 H. The Commission shall promulgate rules to implement the  
11 provisions of this act.

12 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

13 SECTION 7. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
14 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

17  
18 60-1-912

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