

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 589

By: Seifried

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 384, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 11-103.6), which relates to curriculum requirements for graduation; updating statutory language; adding course to fulfill English unit or set of competencies requirement; 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 11-103.6, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 384, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, 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.

1 2. School districts shall develop and implement curriculum,
2 courses, and instruction in order to ensure that students meet the
3 skills and competencies as set forth in this section and in the
4 subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

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

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

1 5. The subject matter standards shall be designed with rigor as
2 defined in paragraph 6 of subsection F of this section.

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

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

12 8. The subject matter standards for history, social studies,
13 and United States Government shall include the content of the United
14 States naturalization test, with an emphasis on the specific content
15 of the test and the ideas and concepts it references. The United
16 States naturalization test shall be made available in physical and
17 electronic online formats as an optional assessment tool for
18 teachers.

19 9. The subject matter standards for United States Government
20 shall include an emphasis on civics. For the purposes of this
21 section, "civics" means the study of the rights and duties of
22 Oklahoma and United States citizens and of how those governments
23 work.

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

14 B. Subject to the provisions of subsection C or ~~subsection~~ D of
15 this section, in order to graduate from a public high school
16 accredited by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma,
17 students enrolled in grades eight through twelve in the 2024-2025
18 school year shall complete the following college preparatory/work
19 ready curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary
20 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;

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, 1/2 unit
16 of Oklahoma History, 1/2 unit of United States Government, and one
17 unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography, Economics,
18 Civics, or non-Western culture and approved for college admission
19 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.

10 C. In lieu of the requirements of subsection B or ~~subsection D~~
11 of this section which requires a college preparatory/work ready
12 curriculum, a student enrolled in grades eight through twelve in the
13 2024-2025 school year may enroll in the core curriculum as provided
14 in this subsection upon written approval of the parent or legal
15 guardian of the student. For students under the age of eighteen
16 (18) school districts shall require a parent or legal guardian of
17 the student to meet with a designee of the school prior to
18 enrollment in the core curriculum. The State Department of
19 Education shall develop and distribute to school districts a form
20 suitable for this purpose, which shall include information on the
21 benefits to students of completing the college preparatory/work
22 ready curriculum as provided for in subsection B of this section.

23 In order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the
24 State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students enrolled

1 in grades eight through twelve in the 2024-2025 school year shall
2 complete the following core curriculum units or sets of competencies
3 at the secondary level:

4 1. Language Arts - 4 units or sets of competencies to consist
5 of 1 unit or set of competencies of grammar and composition, and 3
6 units or sets of competencies which may include, but are not limited
7 to, the following courses:

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

14 2. Mathematics - 3 units or sets of competencies to consist of
15 1 unit or set of competencies of Algebra I or Algebra I taught in a
16 contextual methodology, and 2 units or sets of competencies which
17 may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 18 a. Algebra II,
- 19 b. Geometry or Geometry taught in a contextual
20 methodology,
- 21 c. Trigonometry,
- 22 d. Math Analysis or Precalculus,
- 23 e. Calculus,
- 24 f. Statistics and/or Probability,

1 g. Computer Science or acceptance and successful
2 completion of one (1) year of a full-time, three-hour
3 career and technology program leading to an industry
4 credential/certificate or college credit. The State
5 Board of Career and Technology Education shall
6 promulgate rules to define the provisions of this
7 section related to the accepted industry-valued
8 credentials which are industry-endorsed or industry-
9 aligned. The list of accepted industry-valued
10 credentials shall be reviewed annually and updated at
11 least every three (3) years by the Board,

12 h. (1) contextual mathematics courses which enhance
13 technology preparation, or

14 (2) a science, technology, engineering, and math
15 (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for
16 course competencies listed in paragraph 2 of
17 subsection B of this section, whether taught at
18 a:

19 (a) comprehensive high school, or

20 (b) technology center school when taken in the
21 tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, taught by
22 a certified teacher, and approved by the
23 State Board of Education and the independent
24 district board of education,

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

3. Science - 3 units or sets of competencies to consist of 1 unit or set of competencies of Biology I or Biology I taught in a contextual methodology, and 2 units or sets of competencies in the areas of life, physical, or earth science or technology which may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- a. Chemistry I,
- b. Physics,
- c. Biology II,
- d. Chemistry II,
- e. Physical Science,
- f. Earth Science,
- g. Botany,
- h. Zoology,
- i. Physiology,
- j. Astronomy,
- k. Applied Biology/Chemistry,
- l. Applied Physics,

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

23 4. Social Studies - 3 units or sets of competencies to consist

24 of 1 unit or set of competencies of United States History, 1/2 to 1

1 unit or set of competencies of United States Government, 1/2 unit or
2 set of competencies of Oklahoma History, and 1/2 to 1 unit or set of
3 competencies which may include, but are not limited to, the
4 following courses:

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

12 5. Arts - 1 unit or set of competencies which may include, but
13 is not limited to, courses in Visual Arts and General Music; and

14 6. Computer Education or World Language - 1 unit or set of
15 competencies of computer technology, whether taught at a high school
16 or a technology center school including computer programming,
17 hardware, and business computer applications, such as word
18 processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding
19 keyboarding or typing courses, or 1 unit or set of competencies of
20 world or non-English language.

21 D. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, students whose
22 parent or legal guardian approve modification of the existing
23 graduation track as outlined in subsections B and C of this section,
24 subject to school approval, may complete a minimum of twenty-three

1 (23) curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level
2 as ~~listed below;~~ and provided for in this subsection. Beginning
3 with students entering the eighth grade in the 2025-2026 school
4 year, in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by
5 the State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students shall
6 complete a minimum of the following twenty-three (23) curriculum
7 units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

8 1. Four units or sets of competencies of English to include
9 Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course including
10 English 10: Advanced Placement Seminar;

11 2. Four units or sets of competencies of mathematics, two of
12 which shall be Algebra I and either Algebra II or Geometry. The
13 other two units may include Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math
14 Analysis, Calculus, Statistics, Math of Finance, Computer Science,
15 college courses approved for dual credit, an approved full-time
16 postsecondary career and technology program, or locally approved
17 math based application course, or any mathematics course with
18 content and/or rigor above Algebra I;

19 3. Three units or sets of competencies of laboratory science
20 approved for college admission requirements including one unit or
21 set of competencies of life science meeting the standards for
22 Biology I; one unit or set of competencies of physical science
23 meeting the standards for Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics;
24 and one unit or set of competencies from the domains of physical

1 science, life science, or earth and space science, or approved full-
2 time postsecondary career and technology program or locally approved
3 science based application course, or any science course with content
4 and/or rigor above Biology I or Physical Science;

5 4. Three units or sets of competencies of history and
6 citizenship skills including one unit of American History, 1/2 unit
7 of Oklahoma History, 1/2 unit of United States Government, and one
8 unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography, Economics,
9 Civics, or non-Western culture;

10 5. Six pathway units or sets of competencies approved at the
11 discretion of the school district board of education which align
12 with each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) and
13 may include, but are not limited to, any additional units or sets of
14 competencies as provided in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this
15 subsection, world or non-English language, computer technology,
16 Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), internship or
17 apprenticeship programs, career and technology education courses,
18 concurrently enrolled courses, advanced placement courses,
19 International Baccalaureate courses approved for college admission
20 requirements, music, art, drama, speech, dance, media arts, or other
21 approved courses; and

22 6. Three units or sets of competencies of elective courses
23 approved by the school district board of education.
24

1 E. A school district shall determine the specific description
2 of the locally approved math and science based application courses
3 allowed pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection D of this
4 section. Formal notification with the specific course description
5 shall be provided to the State Department of Education prior to July
6 1 of each school year. The notification shall include what courses
7 will be coded as locally approved math and science based application
8 courses for the ensuing school year.

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

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

22 3. A school district shall not be required to offer every
23 course listed in subsections B, C, and D of this section but shall
24

1 offer sufficient courses to allow a student to meet the graduation
2 requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

3 G. For purposes of this section:

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

7 2. "Locally approved" means approved by the local school
8 district board of education;

9 3. "Math based application course" means a course that teaches
10 math content within a real-world application;

11 4. "Pathway unit" means a course taken by a high school student
12 that is aligned with the student's current ~~Individualized~~ Individual
13 Career and Academic Plan (ICAP);

14 5. "Qualified agricultural education courses" means courses
15 that have been determined by the State Board of Education to offer
16 the sets of competencies for one or more science content areas and
17 which correspond to academic science courses. Qualified
18 agricultural education courses shall include, but are not limited
19 to, horticulture, plant and soil science, natural resources and
20 environmental science, and animal science. The courses shall be
21 taught by teachers certified in agricultural education and comply
22 with all rules of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology
23 Education;

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

3 7. "Science based application course" means a course that
4 teaches science content within a real-world application;

5 8. "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 9. "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, State Board of Career and
13 Technology Education, and Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
14 Education shall adopt a joint plan and electronically submit it to
15 the Speaker of the ~~Oklahoma~~ House of Representatives and the
16 President Pro Tempore of the ~~Oklahoma State~~ Senate by January 1,
17 2025, to ensure that rigor is maintained in the content, teaching
18 methodology, level of expectations for student achievement, and
19 application of learning in all the courses taught to meet the
20 graduation requirements specified in subsection D of this section.

21 2. The State Board of Education shall allow as much flexibility
22 at the district level as is possible without diminishing the rigor
23 or undermining the intent of providing these courses. To accomplish
24 this purpose, the State Department of Education shall work with

1 school districts in reviewing and approving courses taught by
2 districts that are not specifically listed in subsections B, C, and
3 D of this section. Options may include, but shall not be limited
4 to, courses taken by concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, or
5 correspondence, or courses bearing different titles.

6 3. Technology center school districts may offer programs
7 designed in cooperation with institutions of higher education.
8 Students in the tenth grade may be allowed to attend these programs
9 for up to one-half (1/2) of a school day and credit for the units or
10 sets of competencies required in paragraphs 2, 3, and 6 of
11 subsection B or C and paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection D of this
12 section shall be given if the courses are taught by a teacher
13 certified in the secondary subject area; provided, credit for units
14 or sets of competencies pursuant to subsection B of this section
15 shall be approved for college admission requirements.

16 4. If a student enrolls in a concurrent course, the school
17 district shall not be responsible for any costs incurred for that
18 course, unless the school district does not offer enough course
19 selection during the student's secondary grade years to allow the
20 student to receive the courses needed to meet the graduation
21 requirements of this section. If the school district does not offer
22 the necessary course selection during the student's secondary grade
23 years, it shall be responsible for the cost of resident tuition at
24 an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,

1 fees, and books for the concurrent enrollment course, and providing
2 for transportation to and from the institution to the school site.

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

12 5. Credit for the units or sets of competencies required in
13 subsection B, C, or D of this section shall be given when such units
14 or sets of competencies are taken prior to ninth grade if the
15 teachers are certified or authorized to teach the subjects for high
16 school credit and the required rigor is maintained.

17 6. The units or sets of competencies in mathematics required in
18 subsection B, C, or D of this section may be completed at any time
19 during the eighth through twelfth grades. If a student completes
20 any required courses or sets of competencies in mathematics prior to
21 eighth grade, the student may take any other mathematics courses or
22 sets of competencies to fulfill the requirement to complete the
23 units or sets of competencies in grades eight through twelve after
24

1 the student has satisfied the requirements of subsection B, C, or D
2 of this section.

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

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

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

21 2. Internet-based courses offered by a technology center school
22 that are taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching
23 and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject
24 matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education

1 and the independent district board of education, be counted for
2 academic credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of
3 this section.

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

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

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

1 L. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt, and
2 approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of
3 specified levels of competencies in each area of the core
4 curriculum.

5 M. Children who have individualized education programs pursuant
6 to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and who
7 satisfy the graduation requirements through the individualized
8 education program for that student shall be awarded a standard
9 diploma.

10 N. Any student who completes the curriculum requirements of the
11 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be awarded a
12 standard diploma.

13 O. Any student who successfully completes an advanced
14 mathematics or science course offered pursuant to Section 1210.404
15 of this title shall be granted academic credit toward meeting the
16 graduation requirements pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3, as
17 appropriate, of subsection B, C, or D of this section.

18 P. For purposes of this section, the courses approved for
19 college admission requirements shall be courses which are approved
20 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for admission to
21 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

22 Q. Students who have been denied a standard diploma by the
23 school district in which the student is or was enrolled for failing
24 to meet the requirements of this section may re-enroll in the school

1 district that denied the student a standard diploma following the
2 denial of a standard diploma. The student shall be provided
3 remediation or intervention and the opportunity to complete the
4 curriculum units or sets of competencies required by this section to
5 obtain a standard diploma. Students who re-enroll in the school
6 district to meet the graduation requirements of this section shall
7 be exempt from the hourly instructional requirements of Section 1-
8 111 of this title and the six-period enrollment requirements of this
9 section.

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

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

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