

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 848

By: Bullard

4
5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to education funding; creating the
7 Oklahoma Independent Education Act; providing short
8 title; stating legislative intent; providing purpose
9 of act; prohibiting certain school districts and
10 charter schools from using or being forced to use
11 certain funds for certain activities; defining terms;
12 directing the State Department of Education and the
13 State Board of Education to develop certain plan;
14 requiring submission of plan; providing for adoption
15 of plan; providing for creation of certain working
16 group; providing for membership; requiring
17 appointments within certain time period; prohibiting
18 certain members from receiving certain compensation
19 or travel reimbursement; exempting the working group
20 from certain acts; providing for staff support;
21 requiring submission of certain report; providing for
22 codification; providing an effective date; and
23 declaring an emergency.
24

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 18-104.1 of Title 70, unless
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
22 Independent Education Act". In accordance with the Tenth Amendment
23 to the United States Constitution, the Legislature finds it
24 necessary to protect the values, funding, and independence of public
25

1 schools, students, parents, and taxpayers in this state. The
2 purpose of this act is to ensure that no public school in this state
3 may be compelled by threat of defunding to establish policies that
4 are not in line with the purpose of public schools, which is to
5 prepare students with knowledge which will help them perform well in
6 society and the workplace by having fundamental skills in reading,
7 writing, mathematics, observable science, and primary-sourced
8 history and government.

9 B. 1. No school district or public charter school in this
10 state shall use, or be forced to use through intimidation or threat
11 by the United States Department of Education, private, state, or
12 federal funds to develop, organize, administer, engage in, promote,
13 or endorse any activity including any event, initiative, official
14 communication, social media post, educational program, or public
15 campaign, that aims to promote or recognize sexual orientation or
16 gender identity.

17 2. For the purposes of this section:

18 a. "gender identity" means a person's innate sense of
19 gender, chiefly used in contexts where it is
20 contrasted with the biological sex of the person at
21 birth, and

22 b. "sexual orientation" means a person's identity in
23 relation to the gender or genders to which the person
24 is sexually attracted.

1 C. The State Department of Education and the State Board of
2 Education shall develop a plan to phase out the acceptance and use
3 of funds provided by the federal government for the support of pre-
4 kindergarten through twelfth grade education in this state and
5 replace those funds with state funds. The plan shall include but
6 not be limited to a proposed timeline for phasing out acceptance and
7 use of federal funds, the projected need for state or local funds to
8 replace the federal funds, and the reasons for the need to phase out
9 the federal funds. The plan shall be submitted to the Governor, the
10 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives. The Legislature may adopt the plan through passage
12 of legislation approved by a majority of the Senate and House of
13 Representatives and signed by the Governor.

14 D. 1. The Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
15 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall form a working
16 group to monitor implementation of the provisions of this act. The
17 working group shall be comprised of:

- 18 a. the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and
19 one other member of the Senate, appointed by the
20 President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
- 21 b. the chair of the House Appropriations and Budget
22 Committee and one other member of the House of
23 Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House
24 of Representatives, and

1 c. one member appointed by the Governor, who shall serve
2 as chair of the working group.

3 2. Appointments to the working group shall be made within
4 thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. Members of
5 the working group shall receive no compensation or travel
6 reimbursement, except legislative members who shall be reimbursed
7 for necessary travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of
8 Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

9 3. The working group shall not be subject to the Oklahoma Open
10 Meeting Act or the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

11 4. The State Department of Education shall provide staff and
12 administrative support for the working group.

13 5. The working group shall submit a report of its findings and
14 recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the
15 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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