

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3501

By: West (Tammy)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; defining term; authorizing the State Board of Education to assist in establishing community school pilot projects; subjecting award of grants to available funding; providing for scope of pilot projects; requiring minimum elements for contents of project plans; providing for additional components for project; permitting promulgation of rules and regulations; allowing assistance in accessing certain funds; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.560 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this section, "community schools" means public schools that provide services and supports which fit the needs of each neighborhood, created and run by the people who know their children best: families, educators, community organizations, local governments, and the students themselves, all working together.

1 Community schools offer evidence-based pathways by providing
2 tailored services before, during, and after school.

3 B. The State Board of Education may assist and, if funding is
4 available, award grants to school district boards of education to
5 establish pilot projects that create community schools within a
6 school district or at a school site. Projects may involve entire
7 districts, individual school sites, a combination of school sites,
8 or elements of school sites individually or in combination.

9 C. Pilot project plans for community schools shall contain the
10 following minimum elements:

11 1. A person designated as the community school coordinator, who
12 shall complete leadership training provided by an Oklahoma-based
13 nonprofit organization that uses the science of hope to improve
14 classrooms and campuses;

15 2. A comprehensive needs assessment process that includes the
16 following stakeholders:

- 17 a. parents,
- 18 b. community leaders,
- 19 c. teachers,
- 20 d. site and district administrators,
- 21 e. other education employees, and
- 22 f. students, where age-appropriate;

23 3. Site-based collaborative leadership, practices, and shared
24 responsibility; and
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1 4. An ongoing stakeholder engagement process.

2 Pilot projects for community schools, when possible, shall also
3 address additional components including, but not limited to,
4 strengthened curriculum and academic programs, expanded learning
5 opportunities, and integrated student supports or wraparound
6 services.

7 D. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules and
8 regulations for the operation and implementation of the pilot
9 projects and to assist school districts in accessing pilot start-up
10 funds from the United States Department of Education for selected
11 projects.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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