

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 307

By: Quinn

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Educational Deregulation Act;
8 amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-125, which relates
9 to the purpose of the act; removing language allowing
10 certain consortium or group, school sites, programs
11 or grade levels to apply for certain improvement
12 plan; updating statutory reference; removing areas of
13 emphasis for plan; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-
14 126, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 124, O.S.L.
15 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 3-126), which
16 relates to development of educational improvement
17 plans; updating statutory reference; removing
18 reference to certain consortium or group, school
19 sites, programs or grade levels; removing certain
20 required components of educational improvement plans;
21 prohibiting exemption from certain requirements;
22 removing language prohibiting certain exemptions from
23 being requested; removing language allowing the State
24 Board of Education to grant certain certification
25 exemptions; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-127,
26 which relates to public review and comment on plans;
27 removing language requiring a period of public review
28 and comment on educational improvement plans prior to
29 board of education approval; increasing approval
30 period for plans; requiring annual rather than
31 quarterly notification of plan approval; allowing
32 rather than requiring withdrawal of plan approval for
33 certain non-compliance; providing an effective date;
34 and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-125, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 3-125. The purpose of ~~this act~~ the Educational
4 Deregulation Act is to ensure that local schools have the necessary
5 freedom to innovate and improve education systems ~~in order to~~
6 ~~maximize student learning and performance.~~ Pursuant to this
7 purpose, school districts shall be allowed to develop, make
8 application for and implement educational improvement plans which
9 would exempt the school district, ~~a school site or any program,~~
10 ~~grade level, consortium of schools or school districts or other~~
11 ~~group within the district~~ from the educational-related statutory
12 regulations ~~set forth in subsection D of Section 3 of this act and~~
13 ~~the~~ State Board of Education rules as provided for in subsection C
14 of Section 3-126 of this title. The plans submitted by school
15 districts and approved by the State Board of Education should
16 emphasize innovation, flexibility, ~~and~~ collaboration at the local
17 school level, ~~accountability at the state and local level,~~ and the
18 dissemination of the results, ~~and strict emphasis on improved~~
19 ~~student achievement~~ of the implementation of the educational
20 improvement plans.

21 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-126, as
22 amended by Section 2, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020,
23 Section 3-126), is amended to read as follows:
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1 Section 3-126. A. A school district may develop an educational
2 improvement plan which includes exemption from the educational-
3 related statutory requirements ~~set forth in subsection C of this~~
4 ~~section~~ and State Board of Education rules ~~for the school district,~~
5 ~~a school site or any program, grade level, consortium of schools or~~
6 ~~school districts or other group within the school district~~ as
7 provided for in subsection C of this section. The board of
8 education of the school district shall, through adoption of a
9 resolution, approve the plan prior to application being made to the
10 State Board of Education.

11 B. Each educational improvement plan approved by the State
12 Board of Education shall include the following components:

- 13 1. ~~A description of the educational benefits to be derived;~~
- 14 2. A definition of the standards of the plan;
- 15 3. ~~Development of definitive work products, such as site~~
16 ~~improvement plans and progress reports;~~
- 17 4. 2. Demonstration of collaboration by ~~teachers,~~
18 ~~administrators, higher education representatives,~~ students,
19 parents/families, and the community;
- 20 5. ~~Development and the use of an assessment mechanism to~~
21 ~~determine progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan;~~
- 22 6. ~~Development of an in-service training plan to be provided to~~
23 ~~personnel at the site who will participate in the project;~~

1 ~~7. Report on the results of the plan to the State Board of~~
2 ~~Education and provision of appropriate technical assistance to other~~
3 ~~school districts and the State Department of Education as required;~~
4 and

5 ~~8. 3. Explanation of how the plan will affect other schools,~~
6 ~~programs or sites in the district, students, families and the~~
7 ~~community.~~

8 C. Each educational improvement plan shall include a list of
9 the specific educational-related statutory requirements and State
10 Board of Education rules from which the school district is not
11 requesting an exemption ~~from and why each exemption is necessary to~~
12 ~~success of the plan.~~ The school district shall not be granted an
13 exemption from federal educational-related requirements. ~~A school~~
14 ~~district may request an exemption from or any statutory requirement~~
15 ~~or State Board of Education rule ~~not~~ related to bilingual and~~
16 ~~special education programs, or health and safety provisions, ~~school~~~~
17 ~~finance, State Aid, pupil formula weights, teacher salary and~~
18 ~~teacher retirement, the Oklahoma School Testing Program, the~~
19 ~~Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program and the teacher preparation,~~
20 ~~examination, certification, residency and professional development~~
21 ~~system. The State Board of Education may grant district wide~~
22 ~~exemptions from certification requirements for Library Media~~
23 ~~Specialists to districts experiencing a shortage in this area. The~~
24 ~~State Board of Education may grant an exemption from certification~~

1 ~~requirements for superintendents to any district with an unweighted~~
2 ~~average daily membership over twenty five thousand (25,000).~~

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-127, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 3-127. A. ~~Prior to the adoption of a resolution by the~~
6 ~~local board of education as required in subsection A of Section 3-~~
7 ~~126 of this title, the local board of education shall provide for a~~
8 ~~period of public review and comment on the proposed educational~~
9 ~~improvement plan and shall notify and allow comment from the~~
10 ~~district bargaining agent of the plan. If no bargaining agent~~
11 ~~exists for that district, the teachers directly effected shall be~~
12 ~~notified and allowed to make comments. All comments,~~
13 ~~recommendations and objections made by the bargaining agent and~~
14 ~~others to the local board of education shall be forwarded to the~~
15 ~~State Board of Education for consideration prior to review of the~~
16 ~~plan.~~

17 ~~B.~~ Each educational improvement plan shall be approved by the
18 State Board of Education before implementation.

19 ~~C.~~ B. Approval of a plan shall be for no longer than ~~three (3)~~
20 five (5) years. If a plan is approved, the school district shall be
21 required to submit an annual report, and the Board shall provide for
22 an annual assessment of the plan.

23 ~~D.~~ C. The Board shall notify the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate of the

1 approval of plans on a ~~quarterly~~ an annual basis and ~~shall provide~~
2 ~~the Speaker and the President Pro Tempore with copies of the annual~~
3 ~~reports and assessments.~~

4 ~~E. D.~~ If the Board determines through the annual assessment
5 process that the school district is not complying with the
6 requirements of the Educational Deregulation Act or is not meeting
7 the ~~goals~~ standards of the plan, it shall first provide notice to
8 the district of its findings. If the school district does not come
9 into compliance or take action to meet the ~~goals~~ standards of the
10 plan, the Board ~~shall~~ may withdraw approval and terminate the plan.

11 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

12 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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