

Legislative Wrap Up 2023

HB 1029 – John Talley & Brenda Stanley – Requires SDE and Office of Planning and Coordination for Services to Children and Youth to adopt a standard form to be used by all school districts to identify students who are homeless. Parents shall fill it out, districts shall report to SDE. The SDE shall compile a report of the number of homeless students and share with governor, house, and senate. Effective 11/01/2023.

HB 1041 – Randy Randleman & Brenda Stanley – Sets curriculum guidelines for districts that elect to issue alternate diplomas to "a student who meets the definition of a student with most significant cog disabilities" by the school year the student turns 22. Does not terminate FAPE or IEP. Effective 7/01/2023.

HB 1397 – Mark Lepak & Michael Bergstrom – SDE shall develop and make available a curriculum studying the events of the civil rights movement from 1954 to 1968, which highlights the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the strategy of nonviolent resistance. To reinforce these lessons, the curriculum shall include an additional unit studying other acts of discriminatory injustice around the globe. The curriculum does not have to be adopted by districts. Effective 11/01/2023.

HB 1441 – Melissa Provenzano & Adam Pugh – Modifies frequency of various required PD. All teachers new to a district must attend mandatory reporting training, dyslexia awareness training, bullying prevention training, suicide prevention training, alcohol and drug abuse training the first year and then once every five academic years. No more than a total of 150 hours of PD shall be required during any five-year period. Teachers shall maintain written documentation of all their completed professional development. Effective 7/01/2023

HB 1443 – Melissa Provenzano & John Montgomery – Prohibits student loan servicers from failing to inform student loan borrowers if their type of loan does not qualify for loan forgiveness programs. Effective 11/01/2023

HB 1634 – Clay Staires & Michael Bergstrom – Allows for search of shoes and hand and head coverings, except religious head coverings, when searching students for weapons, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, or for missing or stolen property. Allows superintendent to designate school personnel to transport items found in a search to a centralized location within the district or to a local law enforcement office. Effective 11/01/2023

Hb 1934 – Charles McCall & Greg Treat – Creates the Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit Act. It is a sliding scale refundable tax credit voucher based on income. The maximum tax credit is \$7,500 for a household which the total adjusted gross income does not exceed \$75,000 dollars. The minimum tax credit is \$5,000 for a household which the total AGI is more than \$250,000. Homeschool students are eligible for a \$1,000 tax credit per eligible student each tax year. For tax year 2024 the total amount of credits shall not exceed \$150m, for tax year 2025 the total amount of credits shall not exceed \$200m, and for tax year 2025 the total amount of credits shall not exceed \$250m. The homeschool tax credit is capped at \$5m/year. There is a proportional trigger only if there is a revenue failure in which the tax credit will decrease proportionately to the reduction in the amount appropriated to money appropriated to public schools. Effective 8/24/23.

HB 2180 – Dick Lowe & Kristen Thompson – Students enrolled in a virtual charter school alternative education program who attend 189 hours per quarter, 756 hours per year will be counted in full attendance. Any student who does not complete an instructional activity for 15 consecutive days, including weekends, shall be withdrawn for truancy. Allows for the virtual charter school to request a waiver of the enrollment prohibition from the SDE on behalf of a student found truant two times in a school year if the student is enrolled in an alternative education program designated by SDE. The student remains enrolled until a final determination is made. Effective 11/01/2023.

HB 2265 – Ronny Johns & Darrell Weaver – School districts may offer an elective course in law enforcement to 11th and 12th graders. Course shall include: intro to law enforcement training, critical skills and entry requirements for law enforcement professionals, and career opportunities. SBE may coordinate w/ Council on Law Enforcement Ed. and Training to develop instructional materials and curricula. Effective 11/01/2023

HB 2314 – Kyle Hilbert & Adam Pugh – Receiving districts may provide transportation outside the boundaries of the receiving school district. Effective 7/01/2023.

HB 2559 – Mark McBride & Dewayne Pemberton – Renames the Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program to the Inspired to Teach Program. Allows for applicants to have completed high-school level instruction at home or completed their GED. Defines full time student. Effective 11/01/2023

HB 2678 – Rhonda Baker & Casey Murdock – Prohibits appointment to the State Board of Education of person who serves on a board of education of a school district supervised by the State Board of Education. Effective 11/01/2023.

HB 2679 – Rhonda Baker & Dave Rader – Extends the Teacher Certification Pathways Pilot Program to 2026 and expands the program to providers that have an existing novice teacher support program and/or an established partnership with an accredited higher education institution. Effective 7/01/2023.

HB 2901 – Kevin Wallace & Roger Thompson – Appropriates \$500m to the State Board of Education for the financial support of public schools. Appropriates a further \$125m into Redbud. Any cuts to the new baseline established with this investment will be cut proportionally from the OK Parental Choice Tax Credit Act. Effective 7/01/2023.

HB 2902 – Kevin Wallace & Roger Thompson – Increases the transportation supplement from 1.39 to 2.0. Increases the Economically Disadvantaged weighted pupil category calculation from .25 to .3. Increases the small school district formula threshold from 529 to 750. Effective 7/01/2023.

HB 2903 – Kevin Wallace & Roger Thompson – SDE shall establish a 3-year pilot School Resource Officer Program. SROs shall complete active shooter emergency response training offered by CLEET. Creates the School Security Revolving Fund. Can be spent on: SRO Program, providing physical security enhancements for schools. Effective 7/01/2023.

HB 2904 – Kevin Wallace & Roger Thompson – Appropriates \$150m to the School Security Revolving Fund. This will provide approximately \$96,000 to each Oklahoma public school district. Effective 7/01/2023

SB 26 – Dewayne Pemberton & Neil Hays – Provides exceptions to certain gender-based school bathroom restrictions to coaches before, during and after athletic activities as long as all students present are fully clothed and the coach is accompanied by another adult at all times. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 93 – Dave Rader & Anthony Moore – Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to graduate high school. Parents, students, and counselors can opt out of the requirement. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 100 – Dewayne Pemberton & Dick Lowe – Requires all school districts to undergo a risk and vulnerability assessment conducted by the School Security Institute by July 1, 2026. Outlines eligibility for the Oklahoma School Security Grant Program and describes what the grant funds can be spent on. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 147 – Carri Hicks & Eddy Dempsey – Requires school diabetes medical management plans to include a provision indicating whether the guardians of the student with diabetes have authorized the administration of certain medications by trained personnel. Districts may opt to stock medicine to treat emergencies. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 299 – Roger Thompson & Mark Vancuren – Extends the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education to July 1, 2026. It also moves the appointments from the Governor to the Speaker of the House and Pro Temp of the Senate. The nominations will be submitted by the elected executive leaders of different Indian tribes. The appointments shall be made within three months following the vacancy. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 429 – John Montgomery & Trey Caldwell – Allows public, charter, and technology center students to wear tribal regalia during the schools graduation ceremonies. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 467 – Brenda Stanley & Nicole Miller – Creates the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Act to facilitate license equivalency and reciprocity between member states and their respective licensing authorities by establishing the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission; The Council of State Governments (CSG) is partnering with the Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) to support the mobility of licensed teachers through the development of a new interstate compact. This compact will create reciprocity among participant states and reduce the barriers to license portability and employment. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 516 – Adam Pugh & Jon Echols – Creates the Statewide Charter School Board (dissolves the Statewide Virtual Board) on July 1, 2024. The board will be composed of nine (9) voting members: 3 appointed by governor, 2 Senate, 2 House, Superintendent of Public Instructions or his or her designee, and State Auditor or his or her designee. Explains the responsibilities of the SCSB. The State Board of Ed will still be responsible for the accreditation of charter and virtual charters and will ensure compliance with laws. Creates in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the SCSB. Allows a private institution of higher learning that is in this state to sponsor a charter school. In counties with a population of fewer than 500,000, the SCSB shall not sponsor more than five new charter schools each year. Charter or Virtual charter school governing boards must meet a minimum of monthly and two members must be residents within the boundary of the charter school. Defines the roles of the charter school sponsor and Statewide Charter School Board sponsor including the Statewide Charter School Board may not sponsor a charter school, virtual charter school, or program that is affiliated with a nonpublic sectarian school or religious institution. Outlines transfer rules for students. Effective 10/01/2023.

SB 710 – Paul Rosino & Rhonda Baker – Allows any school nurse, certified school health practitioner, or a person authorized by school administration to administer opiate antagonists (NARCAN) for suspected overdoses regardless of whether there is a prescription or standing order in place. Effective 5/05/2023.

SB 1118 – Roger Thompson & Kevin Wallace – Appropriates \$10m to SBoE for the purpose of establishing a 3-year pilot program to employ a literacy instructional team to support districts in implementation of the Reading Sufficiency Act. The department shall employ a literacy instructional team with members who are placed regionally across the state. Prescribes training for team members and organizational structure. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 1119 – Roger Thompson & Kevin Wallace – \$3k-\$6k certified personnel pay raise, based on experience. \$3k - Years 0-4, \$4k - Years 5-9, \$5k - Years 10-14, \$6k - Years 15+. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 1120 – Roger Thompson & Kevin Wallace – Establishes the additional funding mechanism for the Redbud Fund. Currently, Redbud is funded at \$44 million, but this would add \$81 million dollars. Proportional trigger. In the event of a failure of revenue pursuant to the Oklahoma State Finance Act, the redbud grants otherwise authorized in subsection B of this section shall be reduced proportionately to the reduction in the amount of money appropriated to the State Board of Education for the financial support of public schools for the fiscal year in which the failure of revenue occurs. Effective 7/01/2023.

SB 1121 – Roger Thompson & Kevin Wallace – Full-time employees of a public school district, persons employed as classroom instructional employees of tech center school districts, persons employed as teachers by the state dept. of Rehabilitation services, persons employed as correctional teachers or vocational instructors by the DOC, and persons employed as teachers by the Office of Juvenile affairs, who have been employed for at least 1250 hours during the preceding 12 month period shall be entitled to 6 weeks of paid maternity leave following the birth of the employees child immediately following the birth of the child. Effective 7/01/2023.