

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE BILL 1442

By: Jett

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; providing definition;  
8 prohibiting certain schools from using certain  
9 funding to promote, purchase, or utilize certain  
10 concepts; prohibiting teachers and certain other  
11 school employees from using certain curricula;  
12 providing for reporting of violation to certain  
13 district attorney; providing for certain notification  
14 of certain committee chairs; providing for  
15 notification of the State Department of Education;  
16 providing for assessment of certain financial  
17 penalty; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.2a,  
18 which relates to the Oklahoma Play to Learn Act;  
19 removing reference to certain types of instruction;  
20 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1722, which relates to  
21 the purpose for the Oklahoma School for the Blind;  
22 removing reference to certain type of instruction;  
23 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1734, which relates to  
24 the purpose for the Oklahoma School for the Deaf;  
25 removing reference to certain type of instruction;  
26 updating statutory language; providing for  
27 codification; providing an effective date; and  
28 declaring an emergency.

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

31 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
32 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.2b of Title 70, unless  
33 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:  
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1 A. For the purposes of this section, "social emotional  
2 learning" means:

3 1. Any evidence-based or non-evidence-based programming that  
4 promotes school and/or civic engagement and/or builds an equitable  
5 learning framework that creates or uses evidence-based benchmarks,  
6 standards, surveys, activities, learning indicators, programs,  
7 policies, processes, professional development, or assessments that  
8 address non-cognitive social factors including but not limited to  
9 self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship  
10 skills, responsible decision making, and/or other attributes,  
11 dispositions, social skills, attitudes, behaviors, beliefs,  
12 feelings, emotions, mindsets, metacognitive learning skills,  
13 motivation, grit, self-regulation, tenacity, perseverance,  
14 resilience, and/or intrapersonal resources;

15 2. Any evidence-based or non-evidence-based program, policy,  
16 process, or procedure that uses school climate surveys to collect  
17 data from students according to skills that include but are not  
18 limited to education, confidence, connections, motivation, stress,  
19 and/or wellbeing; and

20 3. Any evidence-based or non-evidence-based program, policy, or  
21 procedure that compiles and/or uses data from school climate surveys  
22 to develop aligned learning opportunities.

23 B. No public school district, public charter school, or public  
24 virtual charter school shall use federal, state, or private funds to

1 promote, purchase, or utilize the concepts of social emotional  
2 learning for training, instruction, or education of students.

3 C. No public school district, public charter school, or public  
4 virtual charter school teacher, administrator, counselor, employee,  
5 or volunteer shall use any curricula with content related to social  
6 emotional learning in the training, instruction, or education of  
7 students. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all  
8 learning resources.

9 D. 1. A parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled in a  
10 public school district, public charter school, or public virtual  
11 charter school who has reason to believe a violation of the  
12 provisions of this section has occurred shall make a report in good  
13 faith with the district attorney for the county in which the  
14 district, charter school, or virtual charter school is located. The  
15 report shall include any written documentation of the potential  
16 violation including but not limited to a project or class  
17 assignment.

18 2. A district attorney who receives a report pursuant to the  
19 provisions of this subsection and determines that a violation of  
20 this section has occurred shall notify the chairs of the education  
21 committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

22 3. If the chairs of the education committees in the Senate and  
23 the House of Representatives determine that a violation of this  
24 section has occurred, they shall notify the State Department of  
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1 Education. The Department shall assess a financial penalty against  
2 the school district, public charter school, or public virtual  
3 charter school in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the State  
4 Aid allocation for the district, charter school, or virtual charter  
5 school for the proceeding fiscal year.

6 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.2a,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 Section 11-103.2a. A. This act shall be known and may be cited  
9 as the "Oklahoma Play to Learn Act".

10 B. It is the intention of the ~~Oklahoma State~~ Legislature  
11 through ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Play to Learn Act to focus on the  
12 importance of child-centered, play-based learning as the most  
13 rigorous and most developmentally appropriate way for children in  
14 the early childhood grade levels to learn literacy, science,  
15 technology, engineering, art, and math academic concepts.

16 C. As used in this section:

17 1. "Child-directed" means interaction in which the child is  
18 helped to direct and lead the play in any way the child wishes,  
19 unless there is harmful or destructive activity;

20 2. "Domain" means a specified sphere of activity or knowledge;

21 3. "Early childhood education" means prekindergarten,  
22 kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and third grade;

23 4. "Play" means the spontaneous activity of children;

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1           5. "Play-based learning" means any learning activities that are  
2 performed by a child for self-amusement that have behavioral,~~social~~  
3 and psychomotor rewards. Play-based learning shall also mean  
4 activities that are child-directed, joyful,   and spontaneous whereby  
5 the rewards come from within the individual child;

6           6. "Professional development" means any of a wide variety of  
7 specialized training, formal education,   or advanced professional  
8 learning intended to help administrators, teachers,   and other  
9 educators improve their professional knowledge, competence, skill,    
10 and effectiveness;

11           7. "Reading for pleasure" means reading that is freely chosen  
12 or that readers freely and enthusiastically continue after it is  
13 assigned; and

14           8. "Socialization" means social interaction with others.

15           D. Instruction in support of early childhood education  
16 standards may be engaging and may foster children's development and  
17 learning in all domains, including physical, ~~social, emotional,~~  
18 cognitive,   and language. To the best of their ability, educators  
19 may create a learning environment that facilitates child-directed  
20 experiences based upon developmentally appropriate early childhood  
21 practices and intentional, sustained, play-based learning  
22 opportunities, including, but not limited to, movement, creative  
23 expression, exploration, socialization, reading for pleasure, art,  
24 music,   and dramatic play. The art instruction may adhere to

1 prekindergarten standards for fine arts, which include dance, drama,  
2 music, and visual arts, as approved by the State Department of  
3 Education. Educators may develop physical, ~~social, emotional,~~  
4 cognitive, and academic learning opportunities in all curricular  
5 domains, which may include unstructured time for the discovery of  
6 each child's individual needs, abilities, and talents.

7 E. In support of play-based learning in ~~Oklahoma~~ public  
8 schools, school districts may provide ongoing early childhood  
9 professional development for early childhood educators and  
10 administrators, which may include existing early childhood  
11 professional development programs from the State Department of  
12 Education.

13 F. A school district shall not prohibit a teacher from  
14 utilizing play-based learning in early childhood education. The  
15 State Board of Education shall promulgate rules, subject to approval  
16 by the Legislature, establishing guidelines for professional  
17 development programs for early childhood educators and  
18 administrators.

19 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1722, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 1722. The purposes of the Oklahoma School for the Blind  
22 shall be to:  
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1           1. Provide academic, vocational, ~~social/emotional~~, and cultural  
2 instruction as well as independent living skills and transitional  
3 needs for children who are blind or visually impaired; and

4           2. Serve as a statewide resource center for educational  
5 services for children who are blind or visually impaired.

6           SECTION 4.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2021, Section 1734, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8           Section 1734. The purposes of the Oklahoma School for the Deaf  
9 shall be:

10          1. To provide academic, vocational, ~~social/emotional~~, and  
11 cultural instruction as well as independent living skills and  
12 transitional needs for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing; and

13          2. To serve as a statewide resource center for educational  
14 services for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

15           SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

16           SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
17 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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