

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 1027

By: Jett

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; defining term;
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 certain financial penalty; amending 70
17 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.2a, which relates to the
18 Oklahoma Play to Learn Act; removing reference to
19 certain types of instruction; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
20 Section 1722, which relates to the purpose for the
21 Oklahoma School for the Blind; removing reference to
22 certain type of instruction; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
23 Section 1734, which relates to the purpose for the
24 Oklahoma School for the Deaf; removing reference to
25 certain type of instruction; updating statutory
26 language; providing for codification; providing an
27 effective date; and 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 well-being; 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 school
14 district or charter school is located or with the district attorney
15 for the county in which the virtual charter school student resides.
16 The report shall include any written documentation of the potential
17 violation including but not limited to a project or class
18 assignment.

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

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

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

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

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

17 C. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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, 2023.

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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