

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1569

By: Rosecrants

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8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma
10 Play to Learn Act; declaring legislative intent;
11 defining terms; allowing instruction in early
12 childhood education to foster certain development and
13 learning; providing certain learning environment;
14 authorizing educators to provide certain learning
15 opportunities; authorizing certain professional
16 development for teachers; disallowing school
17 districts from prohibiting teacher use of play-based
18 learning; providing for codification; and declaring
19 an emergency.

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

26 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
27 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.2a of Title 70, unless
28 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

29 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
30 Play to Learn Act".

31 B. It is the intention of the Oklahoma State Legislature
32 through this act to focus on the importance of child-centered, play-

1 based learning as the most rigorous and most developmentally
2 appropriate way for children in the early childhood grade levels to
3 learn literacy, science, technology, engineering, art and math
4 academic concepts.

5 C. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

13 5. "Play-based learning" means any learning activities that are
14 performed by a child for self-amusement that have behavioral, social
15 and psychomotor rewards. Play-based learning shall also mean
16 activities that are child-directed, joyful and spontaneous whereby
17 the rewards come from within the individual child;

18 6. "Professional development" means any of a wide variety of
19 specialized training, formal education or advanced professional
20 learning intended to help administrators, teachers and other
21 educators improve their professional knowledge, competence, skill
22 and effectiveness;

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1 7. "Reading for pleasure" means reading that is freely chosen
2 or that readers freely and enthusiastically continue after it is
3 assigned; and

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

5 D. Instruction in support of early childhood education
6 standards may be engaging and may foster children's development and
7 learning in all domains, including physical, social, emotional,
8 cognitive and language. To the best of their ability, educators may
9 create a learning environment that facilitates child-directed
10 experiences based upon developmentally appropriate early childhood
11 practices and intentional, sustained, play-based learning
12 opportunities, including, but not limited to, movement, creative
13 expression, exploration, socialization, reading for pleasure, art,
14 music and dramatic play. The art instruction may adhere to
15 prekindergarten standards for fine arts, which include dance, drama,
16 music and visual arts, as approved by the State Department of
17 Education. Educators may develop physical, social, emotional,
18 cognitive and academic learning opportunities in all curricular
19 domains, which may include unstructured time for the discovery of
20 each child's individual needs, abilities and talents.

21 E. In support of play-based learning in Oklahoma public
22 schools, school districts may provide ongoing early childhood
23 professional development for early childhood educators and
24 administrators, which may include existing early childhood

1 professional development programs from the State Department of
2 Education.

3 F. A school district shall not prohibit a teacher from
4 utilizing play-based learning in early childhood education.

5 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
6 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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