

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 HOUSE BILL 1577

By: Caldwell

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 5-135.4, which relates to the School District  
9 Transparency Act; requiring State Department of  
10 Education to include on its website an itemized  
11 accounting of vacant or unused properties of school  
12 districts; defining certain terms; requiring each  
13 school district to submit information to Department  
14 by certain date; providing an effective date; and  
15 declaring an emergency.

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

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 5-135.4, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 5-135.4 A. This section shall be known and may be  
20 cited as the "School District Transparency Act".

21 B. ~~By January 30, 2011, the~~ The State Department of Education  
22 shall make school district expenditure data available on its  
23 website. Data shall be made available in an open-structured data  
24 format that may be downloaded by the public and that allows the user  
to systematically sort, search, and access all data without any fee  
or charge for access.

1 C. The database shall provide information on school district  
2 expenditures of state, federal, and local funds, whether  
3 appropriated or nonappropriated, excluding payments of voluntary  
4 payroll deductions for employees to receiving parties. The database  
5 shall further provide information, including, but not limited to,  
6 the following:

- 7 1. Identification of the school district;
- 8 2. The Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS) code designation  
9 for each expenditure;
- 10 3. The name and principal location of the entity or recipient  
11 of the funds, excluding release of information relating to an  
12 individual's place of residence and release of information  
13 prohibited by subsection D of Section 24A.7 of Title 51 of the  
14 Oklahoma Statutes or by federal law relating to privacy rights;
- 15 4. The amount of funds expended;
- 16 5. The type of transaction;
- 17 6. A descriptive purpose of the funding action or expenditure;
- 18 7. Copies of all credit card statements, identified by  
19 department responsible for each credit card;
- 20 8. The budgeted and audited actual expenditure figures for each  
21 fiscal year, ensuring each set of figures can be identified as  
22 budgeted or audited figures; and

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1           9. The per-pupil spending figure, derived by dividing total  
2 expenditures by the total number of students enrolled for each  
3 school year.

4           D. The database shall also include an itemized accounting of  
5 all vacant or unused properties owned, leased or otherwise under the  
6 direct control or management of the school district. For purposes  
7 of this subsection only, "vacant" or "unused" means a physical  
8 structure that is currently unoccupied by school district personnel.  
9 This definition includes structures originally constructed as office  
10 space or a school building but that is currently being used for  
11 storage, but shall not include warehouses, barns or other structures  
12 intended for storage or vehicle maintenance.

13           E. The Department shall make the data available on its website  
14 within one hundred twenty (120) days of transmission of the  
15 expenditures to the Department by the school district.

16           ~~E.~~ F. School districts shall provide information requested by  
17 the Department to accomplish the purposes of this section. Each  
18 school district shall submit to the Department the information  
19 described in subsection D of this section by January 1, 2018.

20           ~~F.~~ G. If a school district maintains a website, the district  
21 shall provide the information required in subsection C of this  
22 section in the manner prescribed in subsection B of this section on  
23 the district website.

1        ~~G.~~ H. Nothing in this section shall require the disclosure of  
2 information which is required to be kept confidential by state or  
3 federal law.

4        ~~H.~~ I. The disclosure of information required by this section  
5 shall create no liability whatsoever, civil or criminal, to the  
6 State of Oklahoma, the State Department of Education, school  
7 districts, or any employee thereof for disclosure of required  
8 information or for any error or omission in the disclosure.

9        SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

10       SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
11 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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