

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 1684

By: Wright

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 1-111, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter  
9 135, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 1-111),  
10 which relates to the school day; requiring eighty  
11 percent of school year to consist of five-day school  
12 weeks; permitting school district to submit certain  
13 waiver to State Board of Education; requiring waiver  
14 request to include certain plan; requiring Board to  
15 make decision regarding request within certain time  
16 period; permitting school district to resubmit  
17 amended request if Board denies request; setting  
18 maximum time period for approved request; requiring  
19 school district to submit annual report and requiring  
20 Board to annually assess certain status of school  
21 district; and providing an effective date.

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

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1-111, as  
24 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 135, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp.  
2016, Section 1-111), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 1-111. A. Except as otherwise provided for by law, a  
22 eighty percent (80%) of the school year shall consist of five-day  
23 school weeks, and a school day shall consist of not less than six  
24 (6) hours devoted to school activities. A district board of

1 education may elect to extend the length of one (1) or more school  
2 days to more than six (6) hours and reduce the number of school days  
3 for up to twenty percent (20%) of the school year as long as the  
4 total amount of classroom instruction time is not less than one  
5 thousand eighty (1,080) hours per year as required pursuant to  
6 Section 1-109 of this title.

7 B. A school day for nursery, early childhood education,  
8 kindergarten, and alternative education programs shall be as  
9 otherwise defined by law or as defined by the State Board of  
10 Education. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, not  
11 more than one (1) school day shall be counted for attendance  
12 purposes in any twenty-four-hour period. Two (2) school days, each  
13 consisting of not less than six (6) hours, may be counted for  
14 attendance purposes in any twenty-four-hour period only if one of  
15 the school days is for the purpose of parent-teacher conferences  
16 held as provided for in Section 1-109 of this title.

17 C. Students absent from school in which they are regularly  
18 enrolled may be considered as being in attendance if the reason for  
19 such absence is to participate in scheduled school activities under  
20 the direction and supervision of a regular member of the faculty or  
21 to participate in an online course approved by the district board of  
22 education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
23 provide for the implementation of supplemental online courses which  
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1 shall include, but not be limited to, provisions addressing the  
2 following:

3 1. Criteria for student admissions eligibility;

4 2. A student admission process administered through the  
5 district of residence, which provides the ability for the student to  
6 enroll in individual courses;

7 3. A process by which students are not denied the opportunity  
8 to enroll in educationally appropriate courses by school districts.  
9 For the purposes of this section, "educationally appropriate" means  
10 any instruction that is not substantially a repeat of a course or  
11 portion of a course that the student has successfully completed,  
12 regardless of the grade of the student, and regardless of whether a  
13 course is similar to or identical to the instruction that is  
14 currently offered in the school district;

15 4. Creation of a system which provides ongoing enrollment  
16 access for students throughout the school year;

17 5. A grace period of fifteen (15) calendar days from the first  
18 day of an online course for student withdrawal from an online course  
19 without academic penalty;

20 6. Mastery of competencies for course completion rather than  
21 Carnegie units;

22 7. Student participation in extracurricular activities in  
23 accordance with school district eligibility rules and policies and  
24 any rules and policies of a private organization or association

1 which provides the coordination, supervision, and regulation of the  
2 interscholastic activities and contests of schools;

3 8. Parent authorization for release of state test results to  
4 online course providers, on a form developed by the State Department  
5 of Education; and

6 9. A review process to identify and certify online course  
7 providers and a uniform payment processing system.

8 D. Each district board of education shall adopt policies and  
9 procedures that conform to rules for online courses as adopted by  
10 the State Board. Such policies shall include criteria for approval  
11 of the course, the appropriateness of the course for a particular  
12 student, authorization for full-time students to enroll in online  
13 courses, and establishing fees or charges. No district shall be  
14 liable for payment of any fees or charges for any online course for  
15 a student who has not complied with the district's policies and  
16 procedures. School districts shall not deny students the  
17 opportunity to enroll in educationally appropriate courses and shall  
18 provide an admissions process which includes input from the student,  
19 the parent or guardian of the student, and school faculty.

20 E. Districts shall require students enrolled in online courses  
21 to participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act. Students  
22 participating in online courses from a remote site will be  
23 responsible for providing their own equipment and Internet access,  
24 unless the district chooses to provide the equipment. Credit may

1 not be granted for such courses except upon approval of the State  
2 Board of Education and the district board of education.

3 F. The school day for kindergarten may consist of six (6) hours  
4 devoted to school activities.

5 G. 1. A school district shall be allowed to submit a request  
6 to the Board for a waiver from the requirement under subsection A of  
7 this section that eighty percent (80%) of the school year shall  
8 consist of five-day school weeks and any related rules. Any request  
9 for such waiver shall include a plan which details the goals sought  
10 to be achieved by the waiver, the intended educational and fiscal  
11 benefits and the anticipated impacts or outcomes the plan will have  
12 in the school district including a discussion of any potential  
13 disadvantages that have been identified by the school district.

14 2. Within ninety (90) days after receiving the request and  
15 plan, the Board shall approve or disapprove the request. Any  
16 request for a waiver from the requirements of subsection A of this  
17 section shall be approved by the Board before implementation by the  
18 school district. If the Board does not approve the request, it  
19 shall provide to the school district a written explanation of the  
20 basis for its decision. The school district may resubmit an amended  
21 request at any time after the denial. An approved request and plan  
22 shall be for no longer than three (3) years. Prior to the beginning  
23 of the third year, the school district may apply for renewal of the  
24 approved request and plan. The school district shall be required to

1 submit an annual report and the Board shall annually assess the  
2 academic achievement and fiscal status of the school district.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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