

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE BILL 2038

By: Young

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Community
8 Learning Schools Act; providing definitions;
9 providing for application to certain school sites;
10 specifying conditions for school sites; providing for
11 initiation of a community learning center process for
12 certain school sites; requiring a public information
13 hearing; stating services that may be provided at the
14 public hearing; requiring distribution of
15 information; authorizing agreements with certain
16 organizations; requiring annual follow-up hearings;
17 providing for elections to approve the community
18 learning center process; limiting voting; providing
19 for distribution of ballots; establishing voting
20 percentages for approval of ballots; requiring
21 creation of a school action team upon approval of a
22 community learning center process; requiring the
23 school action team to conduct a performance audit;
24 requiring quarterly updates; providing for a public
hearing to present finding; providing for creation of
a community learning center improvement plan;
requiring certain coordination under certain
circumstances; providing for elections to approve a
community learning center improvement plan;
establishing voting percentages for approval of
ballots; directing the board or governing authority
to review and adopt the plan; establishing duties of
the State Department of Education; authorizing the
Department to provide certain assistance; making
provisions apply over certain conflicting provisions;
allowing certain negotiations; directing the board of
education of a school district or a charter school
governing authority to create a school action team
after certain process is initiated; providing for
membership of a team; providing for selection of a
resource coordinator; stating criteria for selection

1 and duties of the resource coordinator; providing for
2 school action team member terms, vacancies and
3 compensation; listing responsibilities of the school
4 action team; providing for codification; providing an
5 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

6
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

8 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-147.1 of Title 70, unless
10 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Community
12 Learning Schools Act".

13 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-147.2 of Title 70, unless
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 As used in the Community Learning Schools Act:

17 1. "Community learning center" means a school operated by the
18 board of education of school district or a charter school
19 established under the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act that participates
20 in a coordinated, community-based effort with community partners to
21 provide comprehensive educational, developmental, family, and health
22 services to students, families, and community members during school
23 hours and hours in which school is not in session; and
24

1 2. "Community partner" means a provider to students, families,
2 or community members of health care services, on-site resource
3 coordinators, and any other services or programs determined
4 appropriate by a school action team created under Section 4 of this
5 act.

6 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-147.3 of Title 70, unless
8 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. The provisions of this section shall apply to any school
10 site operated by the board of education of a school district or the
11 governing authority of a charter school established under the
12 Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, to which any of the following
13 conditions apply:

14 1. The school site is in improvement status as defined by the
15 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 or under an agreement between the
16 State Board of Education and the United States Secretary of
17 Education;

18 2. The school site is a secondary school that is among the
19 lowest achieving fifteen percent (15%) of secondary schools
20 statewide, as determined by the State Department of Education;

21 3. The school site is a secondary school with a graduation rate
22 of sixty percent (60%) or lower for three (3) or more consecutive
23 years;

24

1 4. The school site is a school that the Department determines
2 is persistently low-performing; and

3 5. A school site that is not in improvement status but for
4 which the school district board of education or charter school
5 governing authority approves the operation of the school as a
6 community learning center. If the board or governing authority
7 approves such operation, the requirements prescribed by this section
8 may apply to the school site.

9 B. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each school
10 district board of education or charter school governing authority
11 may initiate a community learning center process for any school site
12 to which this section applies. The board or governing authority
13 shall conduct a public information hearing at each school site to
14 which this section applies to inform the community of the community
15 learning center process. The board or governing authority may do
16 all of the following with regard to the public information hearing:

17 1. Announce the meeting not less than forty-five (45) days in
18 advance at the school and on the website for the school and school
19 district, using tools to ensure effective communication with
20 individuals with disabilities;

21 2. Schedule the meeting for an evening or weekend time;

22 3. Provide interpretation services and written materials in all
23 languages spoken by five percent (5%) or more of the students
24 enrolled in the school;

1 4. Provide child care services for parents attending the
2 meeting;

3 5. Provide parents, students, teachers, support employees, and
4 community members with the opportunity to speak at the meeting; and

5 6. Comply with Oklahoma Open Records Act.

6 C. In preparing for the public information hearing, the board
7 or governing authority shall ensure that information about the
8 hearing is broadly distributed throughout the community.

9 D. The board or governing authority may enter into an agreement
10 with any civic engagement organizations, community organizations, or
11 employee organizations to support the implementation of the
12 community learning center process.

13 E. The board or governing authority shall conduct a follow-up
14 hearing at least once annually until action is further taken under
15 this section with respect to the school site or until the conditions
16 described in subsection A of this section no longer apply to the
17 school site.

18 F. Not sooner than forty-five (45) days after the first public
19 information hearing, the board or governing authority shall conduct
20 an election, by paper ballot, to initiate the process to become a
21 community learning center. Only parents or guardians of students
22 enrolled in the school site and teachers and support employees who
23 are assigned to the school site may vote in the election. The board
24 or governing authority shall distribute the ballots by mail and

1 shall make copies available at the school site and on the website of
2 the school. The board or governing authority also may distribute
3 the ballots by directly giving ballots to teachers and support
4 employees and sending home ballots with every student enrolled in
5 the school site.

6 G. The board or governing authority shall initiate the
7 transition of the school site to a community learning center if the
8 results of the election held under this section are as follows:

9 1. At least fifty percent (50%) of parents and guardians of
10 students enrolled in the eligible school site cast ballots by a date
11 set by the board or governing authority, and of those ballots at
12 least sixty-seven percent (67%) are in favor of initiating the
13 process; and

14 2. At least fifty percent (50%) of teachers and support
15 employees who are assigned to the school cast ballots by a date set
16 by the board or governing authority, and of those ballots at least
17 sixty-seven percent (67%) are in favor of initiating the process.

18 H. If a community learning center process is initiated under
19 this section, the board or governing authority shall create a school
20 action team under Section 4 of this act. Within four (4) months
21 upon selection, the school action team shall conduct and complete,
22 in consultation with community partners, a performance audit of the
23 school site and review, with parental input, the needs of the school
24 with regard to restructuring under state law or federal law. The

1 school action team shall provide quarterly updates of its work in a
2 public hearing that complies with the same specifications prescribed
3 in subsection B of this section.

4 I. Upon completion of the audit and review, the school action
5 team shall present its findings at a public hearing that complies
6 with the same specifications prescribed in subsection B of this
7 section. After the school action team presents its findings at the
8 public hearing, it shall create a community learning center
9 improvement plan that designates appropriate interventions, which
10 may be based on the recommendations developed by the State
11 Department of Education under paragraph 1 of subsection K of this
12 section. If there is a federally mandated school improvement
13 planning process, the team shall coordinate its work with that plan.
14 The school action team shall approve the plan by a majority vote.

15 J. Upon approval of the plan by the school action team, the
16 team shall submit the community learning center improvement plan to
17 the same individuals described in subsection F of this section.
18 Ballots shall be distributed and an election shall be conducted in
19 the same manner as indicated under subsection F of this section.
20 The school action team shall submit the plan to the district board
21 of education or charter school governing authority, if the results
22 of the election under this subsection are as follows:

23 1. At least thirty percent (30%) of parents and guardians of
24 students enrolled in the eligible school site cast ballots by a date

1 set by the board or governing authority, and of those ballots at
2 least fifty percent (50%) are in favor of initiating the process;
3 and

4 2. At least thirty percent (30%) of teachers and support
5 employees who are assigned to the school site cast ballots by a date
6 set by the board or governing authority, and of those ballots at
7 least fifty percent (50%) are in favor of initiating the process.

8 The board or governing authority shall evaluate the plan and
9 determine whether to adopt it. The board or governing authority
10 shall adopt the plan in full or adopt portions of the plan. If the
11 board or governing authority does not adopt the plan in full, it
12 shall provide a written explanation of why portions of the plan were
13 rejected.

14 K. 1. The State Department of Education shall do all of the
15 following with respect to this section:

- 16 a. adopt procedures regarding the elections required
17 under this section,
- 18 b. develop appropriate interventions for a community
19 learning center improvement plan that may be used by a
20 school action team under subsection I of this section,
21 and
- 22 c. publish a menu of programs and services that may be
23 offered by community learning centers. The
24 information shall be posted on the website of the

1 Department. To compile this information the
2 Department shall solicit input from resource
3 coordinators of existing community learning centers.

4 2. The Department may do the following with respect to this
5 section:

6 a. provide assistance, facilitation, and training to
7 school action teams in the conducting of the audit
8 required under this section,

9 b. provide opportunities for members of school action
10 teams from different schools to share school
11 improvement strategies with parents, teachers, and
12 other relevant stakeholders in higher-performing
13 schools, and

14 c. provide financial support in the planning process of a
15 school action team and create a grant program to
16 assist in the implementation of a qualified community
17 learning center plan.

18 L. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
19 requirements of this section prevail over any conflicting provisions
20 of a collective bargaining agreement entered into on or after the
21 effective date of this section. However, the board or governing
22 authority and the teachers employee organization may negotiate
23 additional factors to be considered in the adoption of a community
24 learning center plan.

1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-147.4 of Title 70, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. 1. If a community learning center process is initiated
5 under Section 3 of this act for any school site operated by the
6 board of education of a school district or a charter school
7 established under the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, the district
8 board of education or charter school governing authority shall
9 create a school action team for the school site. The team shall
10 consist of twelve (12) members, as follows:

11 a. seven individuals, consisting of parents or guardians
12 of students enrolled in the school and members of the
13 community who are not teachers or support employees,
14 as elected by their peers, and

15 b. five teachers and support employees who are assigned
16 to the school site and are not parents or guardians of
17 students enrolled in the school, as elected by their
18 peers.

19 2. To assist a school action team, the school district board of
20 education or charter school governing authority shall select an
21 individual who is employed by the district or school to serve as the
22 resource coordinator for the community learning center. The school
23 action team shall make recommendations to the board or governing
24 authority on potential candidates. The resource coordinator shall

1 not be considered a member of a school action team. The resource
2 coordinator shall assist in the development and coordination of
3 programs and services for the community learning center.

4 B. All members of a school action team shall serve as voting
5 members. Terms of office shall be for three (3) years, and
6 vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original
7 appointment. Members shall serve without compensation.

8 C. In addition to the responsibilities listed in Section 3 of
9 this act, the school action team shall do all of the following:

10 1. Monitor and assist in the implementation of the school
11 improvement plan, if adopted;

12 2. Meet with candidates for principal and other administrative
13 positions and make recommendations to the superintendent and board
14 of education of the district or governing authority of the charter
15 school;

16 3. Advise on school budgets;

17 4. Establish ongoing mechanisms that engage students, parents,
18 and community members in the school;

19 5. Continue to collect feedback and information from parents
20 using an annual survey;

21 6. Develop and approve a written parent involvement policy that
22 outlines the role of parents and guardians in the school;

23 7. Monitor school progress on data related to:

24 a. academic achievement,

- b. attendance, suspensions, and expulsions,
- c. graduation rates, and
- d. reclassifications disaggregated by major racial and ethnic groups, limited English-proficient students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities;

8. Receive regular updates from the principal on policy matters affecting the school and provide advice on such matters; and

9. Meet regularly with parents and community members to discuss policy matters affecting the school.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

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

55-1-5423 KB 01/06/15