

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2415

By: Johns

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
8 Section 1-109, which relates to the length of the
9 school year; allowing school districts to adopt a
10 school-hours policy with specified minimum number of
11 days beginning with certain school year; establishing
12 requirements for certain school-hours policy;
13 requiring two public hearings prior to adoption;
14 prescribing criteria and timing of hearings;
15 mandating hearing prior to readoption of policy every
16 three years; prohibiting eligibility of certain
17 schools to adopt policy; providing exemptions from
18 other requirements; allowing certain schools to close
19 for inclement weather; providing an effective date;
20 and declaring an emergency.

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

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-109, is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 Section 1-109. A. For all public schools in Oklahoma, school
shall actually be in session and classroom instruction offered:

1. For not less than one hundred eighty (180) days; or

2. For not less than one thousand eighty (1,080) hours each

school year, if a district board of education adopts a school-hours

1 policy and notifies the State Board of Education prior to October 15
2 of the applicable school year; or

3 3. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, for not less than
4 one thousand eighty (1,080) hours with a minimum of one hundred
5 sixty-five (165) days of instruction each school year, if a district
6 board of education adopts a school-hours policy and notifies the
7 State Board of Education prior to October 15 of the applicable
8 school year; or

9 4. Beginning with the ~~2021-2022~~ 2023-2024 school year, for not
10 less than one thousand eighty (1,080) hours with a minimum of one
11 hundred fifty-five (155) days of instruction each school year, if a
12 district board of education adopts a school-hours policy, notifies
13 the State Board of Education prior to October 15 of the applicable
14 school year, and meets the requirements established by ~~the State~~
15 ~~Board of Education pursuant to~~ subsection H of this section.

16 B. A school district may not count more than thirty (30) hours
17 each school year that are used for attendance of professional
18 meetings toward the one hundred eighty (180) days or one thousand
19 eighty (1,080) hours of classroom instruction time required in
20 subsection A of this section.

21 C. Teachers off contract with an employing district shall not
22 be required by the employing school district to attend professional
23 meetings unless the teacher is paid additional compensation for the
24 additional time. Teachers may be paid additional compensation for

1 attending professional meetings in excess of their contract term.
2 Subject to district board of education policy or collective
3 bargaining agreement, additional paid professional days may be
4 granted for individual teachers to attend or participate in
5 professional meetings, staff development training, or National Board
6 certification portfolio development as provided for in Section 6-
7 204.2 of this title.

8 D. A school district may authorize parent-teacher conferences
9 to be held during a regular school day. If authorized by the school
10 district, parent-teacher conferences shall be counted as classroom
11 instruction time for no more than six (6) hours per semester, for a
12 total of twelve (12) hours per school year.

13 E. A school district may maintain school for less than a full
14 school year only when conditions beyond the control of school
15 authorities make the maintenance of the term impossible and the
16 State Board of Education has been apprised and has expressed
17 concurrence in writing.

18 F. The State Board of Education shall establish criteria for an
19 extended-day schedule for schools subject to paragraph 1 of
20 subsection A of this section. The criteria shall:

21 1. Prescribe a lengthened school day within limits determined
22 not to be detrimental to quality instruction;

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1 2. Ensure that the schedule is equivalent in annual hours of
2 instruction to the one-hundred-eighty-day school year specified in
3 paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section; and

4 3. Be consistent with the provisions of this section and
5 Sections 1-111 and 1-112 of this title, but may result in fewer
6 annual days of instruction.

7 G. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection F of this
8 section, a school district board of education subject to paragraph 1
9 of subsection A of this section may adopt and implement an extended-
10 day schedule subject to the following requirements:

11 1. The annual number of hours of instruction shall equal or
12 exceed one thousand eighty (1,080) hours, which is the equivalent of
13 one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction as specified in
14 subsection A of this section for six (6) hours each day as specified
15 in Section 1-111 of this title;

16 2. The annual number of days of instruction shall equal or
17 exceed one hundred eighty (180) days as specified in subsection A of
18 this section;

19 3. The schedule adopted shall be consistent with the provisions
20 of Sections 1-111 and 1-112 of this title, except that for not more
21 than one (1) day per week, a school day shall consist of not less
22 than five (5) hours devoted to academic instruction in a regular
23 classroom setting;

1 4. The district shall hold a public hearing prior to the
2 adoption of an extended-day schedule authorized pursuant to this
3 subsection; and

4 5. The district shall document the impact on student
5 achievement as determined by the academic performance data score and
6 any other relevant factors that are a result of implementation of an
7 extended-day schedule authorized pursuant to this subsection and
8 provide an annual report to the State Board of Education of the
9 results. If improvement in student achievement cannot be documented
10 in the report, the district board of education shall revoke
11 authorization as provided by this subsection. If the district does
12 not revoke authorization after student achievement is not documented
13 in the report, the State Board of Education may deny accreditation
14 of any school in violation of this subsection.

15 H. Beginning with the ~~2021-2022~~ 2023-2024 school year, a school
16 district board of education may adopt a school-hours policy as
17 provided for by paragraph 4 of subsection A of this section only if
18 ~~it meets or exceeds the minimum guidelines for student performance~~
19 ~~and school district cost savings established by the State Board of~~
20 ~~Education. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules,~~
21 ~~subject to approval by the Legislature, establishing the minimum~~
22 ~~guidelines for student performance and school district cost savings~~
23 the board holds two public hearings prior to the adoption of the
24 school calendar.

1 1. Notice for the public hearings shall be publicly posted
2 twenty (20) days prior to the date of the hearings. The hearings
3 shall include an opportunity for public comment and shall occur more
4 than twenty-five (25) days apart.

5 2. After adoption of a school-hours policy pursuant to this
6 subsection, a school district board of education shall hold a public
7 hearing prior to the readoption of the school-hours policy once
8 every three (3) years from the date the school-hours policy was
9 first adopted.

10 3. A school district board of education that has a school site
11 within its district which receives an A-F rating of "D" or lower
12 from the State Department of Education for a period of three (3) or
13 more consecutive years shall not be eligible to adopt a school-hours
14 policy as provided in paragraph 4 of subsection A of this section.

15 4. A school district board of education that adopts a school-
16 hours policy as provided in paragraph 4 of subsection A of this
17 section shall be exempt from complying with subsections F and G of
18 this section.

19 I. If subject to paragraph 2, 3, or 4 of subsection A of this
20 section, a district board of education or designee may elect to
21 close a school during the school day for inclement weather purposes.
22 In such an event, the number of hours incurred in classroom
23 instruction time prior to school closure shall be counted toward the
24 one thousand eighty (1,080) hours per year requirement.

1 J. Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting the
2 right of an employing school district to require teachers as defined
3 in Section 6-101.3 of this title to work in excess of the one
4 thousand eighty (1,080) hours required for student instruction. In
5 addition, nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the
6 Fair Labor Standards Act status of any school district employee.

7 K. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the
8 Oklahoma School for the Blind or the Oklahoma School for the Deaf
9 from adopting an alternative school-hours policy if the Oklahoma
10 School for the Blind or the Oklahoma School for the Deaf notifies
11 and receives approval from the State Board of Education prior to
12 October 15 of the applicable school year.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

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