

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 110

By: Weaver

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to career and technology education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-108, which relates to technology center school district governing boards; directing the State Board of Career and Technology Education to divide districts with a certain number of electors into board zones; providing for election of board members after certain date; providing for filling of vacancy if certain member is no longer a resident of certain zone; providing for promulgation of rules; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 14-108, is amended to read as follows:

Section 14-108. A. The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall prescribe criteria and procedures for the establishment and governance of technology center school districts, as provided by Section 9B, Article X, of the Oklahoma Constitution, and such districts so established shall be operated in accordance with rules of the State Board of Career and Technology Education, except as otherwise provided in this title.

1 B. A technology center school district shall be a body  
2 corporate and shall possess the usual powers of a corporation for  
3 public purposes. Its official name shall be designated by the State  
4 Board of Career and Technology Education, in which name it may sue  
5 and be sued, and be capable of contracting and being contracted  
6 with, and holding real and personal estate.

7 C. The governing board of a technology center school district  
8 shall be a board of education consisting of not less than five (5)  
9 nor more than seven (7) members. Except as otherwise provided for  
10 in ~~subsection~~ subsections D and E of this section, all members of  
11 the board of education shall be elected in a manner prescribed by  
12 the State Board of Career and Technology Education. The State Board  
13 shall promulgate rules prescribing the manner in which the elections  
14 required by this subsection are held.

15 D. In a technology center school district that serves seventy  
16 or more public school districts, the territory of the school  
17 district shall be divided into district zones by the State Board of  
18 Career and Technology Education. Between August 1 and December 31  
19 of the year following the submission by the United States Department  
20 of Commerce to the President of the United States of the official  
21 Federal Decennial Census, the Board shall reapportion the territory  
22 of the technology center school district into district zones. All  
23 boundaries of district zones shall follow clearly visible,  
24 definable, and observable physical boundaries which are based upon

1 criteria established and recognized by the Bureau of the Census of  
2 the United States Department of Commerce for purposes of defining  
3 census blocks for its decennial census and shall follow, as much as  
4 possible, precinct boundaries. District zones shall be compact,  
5 contiguous and shall be as equal in population as practical with not  
6 more than a five-percent variance between the most populous and  
7 least populous district zones. The board of education of a  
8 technology center school district shall consist of one member  
9 elected from each of the district zones of the school district  
10 created pursuant to this subsection. The electors of each district  
11 zone shall elect a person, who is a resident of the district zone,  
12 to represent the district zone on the school board. If during the  
13 term of office to which a person was elected, that member ceases to  
14 be a resident of the district zone for which the person was elected,  
15 the office shall become vacant and the vacancy shall be filled as  
16 provided in Section 13A-110 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes.  
17 The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate  
18 rules prescribing the manner in which the elections required by this  
19 subsection are held.

20 E. In technology center school districts having a population of  
21 more than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) electors, the  
22 territory of the district shall be divided into board zones by the  
23 State Board of Career and Technology Education. The board of  
24 education of the technology center school district shall consist of

1 one member elected from each of the district zones. Beginning with  
2 any election held after July 1, 2023, the electors of each district  
3 zone shall elect a person who is a resident of the district zone to  
4 represent the district zone on the school board. If during the term  
5 of office to which a person was elected, that member ceases to be a  
6 resident of the district zone for which the person was elected, the  
7 office shall become vacant, and the vacancy shall be filled as  
8 provided for in Section 13A-110 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma  
9 Statutes. The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall  
10 promulgate rules prescribing the manner in which the elections  
11 required by this subsection are held.

12 F. The board of education of a technology center school  
13 district shall have the same powers and duties that boards of  
14 education of independent school districts have. It may require  
15 nonresident students to pay reasonable tuition fees, which may be  
16 paid for a student by the independent or elementary school district  
17 in which the student resides.

18 ~~F.~~ G. An election to vote on the question of making a levy of  
19 not to exceed five (5) mills on the dollar valuation of the taxable  
20 property in a technology center school district under the provisions  
21 of subsection A, Section 9B, Article X~~7~~, of the Oklahoma  
22 Constitution, shall be called by the board of education and  
23 conducted by the county election board of such district in the same  
24 manner that elections for emergency levies in school districts under

1 the provisions of subsection (d), Section 9~~(d)~~, Article X~~7~~, of the  
2 Oklahoma Constitution, are called and conducted. When such levy is  
3 approved by a majority of the electors of the technology center  
4 school district voting on the question at such election, the levy  
5 shall be made each fiscal year thereafter until repealed by a  
6 majority of the electors of the district voting on the question at  
7 an election called for such purpose. An election to vote on the  
8 question of making a local incentive levy of not to exceed five (5)  
9 mills on the dollar valuation of the taxable property in a  
10 technology center school district under the provisions of subsection  
11 B of Section 9B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, may be  
12 called by the board of education; and elections on a levy for a  
13 building fund for an area school district under the provisions of  
14 Section 10, Article X, Oklahoma Constitution, shall be called by the  
15 board of education of such district and conducted by the county  
16 election board in the same manner that elections for similar levies  
17 are called and conducted in independent school districts.

18 G. H. Annual estimates of needs of technology center school  
19 districts shall be made and approved in the same manner that those  
20 of independent school districts are made and approved. Provided,  
21 that the State Board of Career and Technology Education shall  
22 prescribe a list of appropriation accounts by which the funds of  
23 technology center school districts shall be budgeted, accounted for  
24 and expended. Any such estimate of needs may include an estimate of

1 federal funds as probable income from sources other than ad valorem  
2 tax of the district and other than any excise or other tax assessed  
3 by legislative enactment and distributed in lieu of ad valorem  
4 taxes. If a technology center school district lies in more than one  
5 county, the district's estimate of needs shall be filed with and  
6 approved by the county excise board of the county designated by the  
7 school district board of education.

8 ~~H.~~ I. Territory may be annexed to or detached from a technology  
9 center school district, in accordance with rules prescribed by the  
10 State Board of Career and Technology Education. If the State Board  
11 of Career and Technology Education requires the submission of a  
12 petition in order for an election to be called for the purpose of  
13 annexation or deannexation of territory to a technology center  
14 school district, such petition shall not be required to bear a  
15 number of technology center school district electors' signatures  
16 which exceed fifty percent (50%) of the number of technology center  
17 school district electors who voted in the last school board election  
18 in the territory proposed to be annexed or deannexed. Provided, the  
19 period of time from which the petition is initiated to its time of  
20 filing with the State Board shall not exceed ninety (90) days.

21 ~~F.~~ J. Schools of technology center school districts shall be  
22 subject to classification, inspection, and accreditation by the  
23 State Board of Education.

1        ~~J.~~ K. The technology center school board of education may  
2 designate a county treasurer to serve as treasurer of the school  
3 district or may appoint an independent treasurer.

4        ~~K.~~ L. Within four (4) years after the creation of a technology  
5 center school district, such school district may, at its discretion,  
6 permit a teacher to transfer any or all accrued benefits upon  
7 employment including credit for years of service in the previous  
8 school district by the technology center school district, if the  
9 teacher at the time of hiring is employed as a teacher by an  
10 independent or elementary school district which is all or partly  
11 within the boundaries of the technology center school district or is  
12 employed as a teacher in a skills center within the boundaries of  
13 the school district.

14        ~~L.~~ M. The board of education of a technology center school  
15 district may convey surplus personal property without consideration  
16 to:

17        1. A school district that is within the boundary of the  
18 technology center school district;

19        2. A public school offering secondary level education which was  
20 created and is operated by ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this state and that  
21 is within the boundary of the technology center school district;

22        3. A technology center school district; or

23        4. The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education  
24 for the support or delivery of department initiatives.

1        M. N. The board of education of a technology center school  
2 district may, without prior approval of the State Board of Career  
3 and Technology Education, approve all plans and specifications for  
4 technology center school buildings, additions, and major  
5 modifications to school buildings that are designed to provide for  
6 the offering of vocational-technical education programs and services  
7 when the cost of the building project is to be paid with local  
8 levies or state bond monies or both local levies and state bond  
9 monies.

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

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

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