

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 138

By: Dahm

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6, as last amended by Section 51, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 11-103.6), which relates to subject matter standards; directing social studies standards to include certain time period of instruction on certain topic on or around certain date; updating statutory language; 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 11-103.6, as last amended by Section 51, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 11-103.6), is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.6. A. 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt subject matter standards for instruction of students in the public schools of this state that are necessary to ensure there is attainment of desired levels of competencies in a variety of areas to include language, mathematics, science, social studies, communication, and health and physical education.

2. School districts shall develop and implement curriculum, courses, and instruction in order to ensure that students meet the

1 skills and competencies as set forth in this section and in the  
2 subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

3 3. All students shall gain literacy at the elementary and  
4 secondary levels. Students shall develop skills in reading,  
5 writing, speaking, computing, and critical thinking. For purposes  
6 of this section, critical thinking means a manner of analytical  
7 thinking which is logical and uses linear factual analysis to reach  
8 a conclusion. They shall learn about cultures and environments -  
9 their own and those of others with whom they share the earth. All  
10 students shall receive the instruction needed to lead healthy and  
11 physically active lifestyles. Students, therefore, shall study  
12 social studies, literature, languages, the arts, health,  
13 mathematics, and science. Such curricula shall provide for the  
14 teaching of a hands-on career exploration program in cooperation  
15 with technology center schools.

16 4. The subject matter standards shall be designed to teach the  
17 competencies for which students shall be tested as provided in  
18 Section 1210.508 of this title, and shall be designed to prepare all  
19 students for active citizenship, employment, and/or successful  
20 completion of postsecondary education without the need for remedial  
21 coursework at the postsecondary level.

22 5. The subject matter standards shall be designed with rigor as  
23 defined in paragraph 3 of subsection G of this section.  
24

1           6. The subject matter standards for English Language Arts shall  
2 give Classic Literature and nonfiction literature equal  
3 consideration to other literature. In addition, emphasis shall be  
4 given to the study of complete works of literature.

5           7. At a minimum, the subject matter standards for mathematics  
6 shall require mastery of the standard algorithms in mathematics,  
7 which is the most logical, efficient way of solving a problem that  
8 consistently works, and for students to attain fluency in Euclidian  
9 geometry.

10          8. The subject matter standards for history, social studies,  
11 and United States Government shall include study of important  
12 historical documents, including the United States Constitution,  
13 Declaration of Independence, Emancipation Proclamation, Federalist  
14 Papers and other documents with significant history and heritage of  
15 the United States, and the content of the United States  
16 naturalization test, with an emphasis on the specific content of the  
17 test and the ideas and concepts it references. Beginning with the  
18 2022-2023 school year, the United States naturalization test shall  
19 be administered in accordance with subsection F of this section.

20 The subject matter standards for social studies shall include at  
21 least forty-five (45) minutes of instruction on "Victims of  
22 Communism Day", on or around November 7th of each year, on topics  
23 such as Mao Zedong in China, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet System,  
24 Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and the

1 Russian Revolution, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, and Nicolas Maduro in  
2 Venezuela and how the victims suffered under these regimes through  
3 suppression of speech, poverty, starvation, migration, and systemic  
4 lethal violence against civilians.

5 9. The subject matter standards for United States Government  
6 shall include an emphasis on civics, the structure and relationship  
7 between the national, state, county, and local governments, and  
8 simulations of the democratic process. For the purposes of this  
9 section, "civics" means the study of the rights and duties of  
10 Oklahoma and United States citizens and of how those governments  
11 work.

12 10. The subject matter standards for health and physical  
13 education shall include but not be limited to the domains of  
14 physical, emotional, social, and intellectual health. Health  
15 literacy shall include the ability to obtain, process, and  
16 understand basic health information and services needed to make  
17 appropriate health decisions. Health shall also include the  
18 importance of proper nutrition and exercise, mental health and  
19 wellness, substance abuse, coping skills for understanding and  
20 managing trauma, establishing and maintaining positive  
21 relationships, and responsible decision making. Physical literacy  
22 shall include the ability to move with competence and confidence in  
23 a wide variety of physical activities in multiple environments that  
24 benefit the healthy development of the whole person.

1 B. Subject to the provisions of subsection C of this section,  
2 in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the  
3 State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students shall  
4 complete the following college preparatory/work ready curriculum  
5 units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

6 1. Four units or sets of competencies of English to include  
7 Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course approved for  
8 college admission requirements;

9 2. Three units or sets of competencies of mathematics, limited  
10 to Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis,  
11 Calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics, or any mathematics course  
12 with content and/or rigor above Algebra I and approved for college  
13 admission requirements;

14 3. Three units or sets of competencies of laboratory science  
15 approved for college admission requirements including one unit or  
16 set of competencies of life science meeting the standards for  
17 Biology I; one unit or set of competencies of physical science,  
18 meeting the standards for Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics;  
19 and one unit or set of competencies from the domains of physical  
20 science, life science, or earth and space science such that the  
21 content and rigor is above Biology I or Physical Science;

22 4. Three units or sets of competencies of history and  
23 citizenship skills, including one unit of American History, one-half  
24 unit of Oklahoma History, one-half unit of United States Government,

1 and one unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography,  
2 Economics, Civics, or non-Western culture and approved for college  
3 admission requirements;

4 5. Two units or sets of competencies of the same world or non-  
5 English language or two units of computer technology approved for  
6 college admission requirements, whether taught at a high school or a  
7 technology center school, including computer programming, hardware,  
8 and business computer applications, such as word processing,  
9 databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding keyboarding or  
10 typing courses;

11 6. One additional unit or set of competencies selected from  
12 paragraphs 1 through 5 of this subsection or career and technology  
13 education courses, concurrently enrolled courses, Advanced Placement  
14 courses, or International Baccalaureate courses approved for college  
15 admission requirements; and

16 7. One unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music,  
17 art, or drama, or one unit or set of competencies of speech.

18 C. In lieu of the requirements of subsection B of this section  
19 which requires a college preparatory/work ready curriculum, a  
20 student may enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection  
21 D of this section upon written approval of the parent or legal  
22 guardian of the student. For students under the age of eighteen  
23 (18), school districts shall require a parent or legal guardian of  
24 the student to meet with a designee of the school prior to

1 enrollment in the core curriculum. The State Department of  
2 Education shall develop and distribute to school districts a form  
3 suitable for this purpose, which shall include information on the  
4 benefits to students of completing the college preparatory/work  
5 ready curriculum as provided for in subsection B of this section.

6 D. For those students subject to the requirements of subsection  
7 C of this section, in order to graduate from a public high school  
8 accredited by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma,  
9 students shall complete the following core curriculum units or sets  
10 of competencies at the secondary level:

11 1. Language Arts - Four units or sets of competencies, to  
12 consist of one unit or set of competencies of grammar and  
13 composition, and three units or sets of competencies which may  
14 include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 15 a. American Literature,
- 16 b. English Literature,
- 17 c. World Literature,
- 18 d. Advanced English Courses, or
- 19 e. other English courses with content and/or rigor equal  
20 to or above grammar and composition;

21 2. Mathematics - Three units or sets of competencies to consist  
22 of one unit or set of competencies of Algebra I or Algebra I taught  
23 in a contextual methodology, and two units or sets of competencies  
24 which may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 1 a. Algebra II,
- 2 b. Geometry or Geometry taught in a contextual
- 3 methodology,
- 4 c. Trigonometry,
- 5 d. Math Analysis or Precalculus,
- 6 e. Calculus,
- 7 f. Statistics and/or Probability,
- 8 g. Computer Science or acceptance and successful
- 9 completion of one (1) year of a full-time, three-hour
- 10 career and technology program leading to an industry
- 11 credential/certificate or college credit. The State
- 12 Board of Career and Technology Education shall
- 13 promulgate rules to define the provisions of this
- 14 section related to the accepted industry-valued
- 15 credentials which are industry-endorsed or industry-
- 16 aligned. The list of accepted industry-valued
- 17 credentials shall be reviewed annually and updated at
- 18 least every three (3) years by the Board,
- 19 h. (1) contextual mathematics courses which enhance
- 20 technology preparation, or
- 21 (2) a science, technology, engineering, and math
- 22 (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for
- 23 course competencies listed in paragraph 2 of
- 24
- 25



1 subsection B of this section, whether taught at

2 a:

3 (a) comprehensive high school, or

4 (b) technology center school when taken in the  
5 tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, taught by  
6 a certified teacher, and approved by the  
7 State Board of Education and the independent  
8 district board of education,

- 9 i. mathematics courses taught at a technology center  
10 school by a teacher certified in the secondary subject  
11 area when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth  
12 grade upon approval of the State Board of Education  
13 and the independent district board of education, or  
14 j. any other mathematics course with content and/or rigor  
15 equal to or above Algebra I;

16 3. Science - Three units or sets of competencies to consist of  
17 one unit or set of competencies of Biology I or Biology I taught in  
18 a contextual methodology, and two units or sets of competencies in  
19 the areas of life, physical, or earth science or technology which  
20 may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 21 a. Chemistry I,  
22 b. Physics,  
23 c. Biology II,  
24 d. Chemistry II,

- 1 e. Physical Science,
- 2 f. Earth Science,
- 3 g. Botany,
- 4 h. Zoology,
- 5 i. Physiology,
- 6 j. Astronomy,
- 7 k. Applied Biology/Chemistry,
- 8 l. Applied Physics,
- 9 m. Principles of Technology,
- 10 n. qualified agricultural education courses,
- 11 o. (1) contextual science courses which enhance
- 12 technology preparation, or
- 13 (2) a science, technology, engineering, and math
- 14 (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for
- 15 course competencies listed in paragraph 3 of
- 16 subsection B of this section, whether taught at
- 17 a:
- 18 (a) comprehensive high school, or
- 19 (b) technology center school when taken in the
- 20 tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, taught by
- 21 a certified teacher, and approved by the
- 22 State Board of Education and the independent
- 23 district board of education,
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- 1 p. science courses taught at a technology center school  
2 by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area  
3 when taken in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade  
4 upon approval of the State Board of Education and the  
5 independent district board of education, or  
6 q. other science courses with content and/or rigor equal  
7 to or above Biology I;

8 4. Social Studies - Three units or sets of competencies, to  
9 consist of one unit or set of competencies of United States History,  
10 one-half to one unit or set of competencies of United States  
11 Government, one-half unit or set of competencies of Oklahoma  
12 History, and one-half to one unit or set of competencies which may  
13 include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 14 a. World History,  
15 b. Geography,  
16 c. Economics,  
17 d. Anthropology, or  
18 e. other social studies courses with content and/or rigor  
19 equal to or above United States History, United States  
20 Government, and Oklahoma History;

21 5. Arts - One unit or set of competencies which may include,  
22 but is not limited to, courses in Visual Arts and General Music; and

23 6. Computer Education or World Language - One unit or set of  
24 competencies of computer technology, whether taught at a high school

1 or a technology center school, including computer programming,  
2 hardware and business computer applications, such as word  
3 processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics, excluding  
4 keyboarding or typing courses, or one unit or set of competencies of  
5 world or non-English language.

6 E. 1. In addition to the curriculum requirements of either  
7 subsection B or D of this section, in order to graduate from a  
8 public high school accredited by the State Board of Education  
9 students shall complete the requirements for a personal financial  
10 literacy passport as set forth in the Passport to Financial Literacy  
11 Act and any additional course requirements or recommended elective  
12 courses as may be established by the State Board of Education and  
13 the district school board. School districts shall strongly  
14 encourage students to complete two units or sets of competencies of  
15 world languages and two units or sets of competencies of physical  
16 and health education.

17 2. No student shall receive credit for high school graduation  
18 more than once for completion of the same unit or set of  
19 competencies to satisfy the curriculum requirements of this section.

20 3. A school district shall not be required to offer every  
21 course listed in subsections B and D of this section but shall offer  
22 sufficient courses to allow a student to meet the graduation  
23 requirements during the secondary grade years of the student.

1 F. 1. In addition to the curriculum requirements of either  
2 subsection B or D of this section, beginning with ninth graders in  
3 the 2021-22 school year, in order to graduate from a public high  
4 school accredited by the State Board of Education, students shall  
5 pass the United States naturalization test pursuant to the  
6 provisions of this subsection.

7 2. School districts shall offer the United States  
8 naturalization test to students at least once per school year,  
9 beginning as early as eighth grade at the discretion of the school  
10 district; provided, any student may retake the exam upon request,  
11 and as often as desired, until earning a passing score. For  
12 purposes of this subsection, a passing score shall be 60 out of 100  
13 questions.

14 3. School districts shall exempt students with disabilities  
15 whose individualized education program (IEP), consistent with state  
16 law, indicates that the student is to be assessed with alternate  
17 achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment  
18 Program (OAAP).

19 G. For purposes of this section:

20 1. "Contextual methodology" means academic content and skills  
21 taught by utilizing real-world problems and projects in a way that  
22 helps students understand the application of that knowledge;

23 2. "Qualified agricultural education courses" means courses  
24 that have been determined by the State Board of Education to offer

1 the sets of competencies for one or more science content areas and  
2 which correspond to academic science courses. Qualified  
3 agricultural education courses shall include, but are not limited  
4 to, Horticulture, Plant and Soil Science, Natural Resources and  
5 Environmental Science, and Animal Science. The courses shall be  
6 taught by teachers certified in agricultural education and comply  
7 with all rules of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology  
8 Education;

9 3. "Rigor" means a level of difficulty that is thorough,  
10 exhaustive, and accurate and is appropriate for the grade level;

11 4. "Sets of competencies" means instruction in those skills and  
12 competencies that are specified in the subject matter standards  
13 adopted by the State Board of Education and other skills and  
14 competencies adopted by the Board, without regard to specified  
15 instructional time; and

16 5. "Unit" means a Carnegie Unit as defined by the North Central  
17 Association's Commission on Schools.

18 H. 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt a plan to  
19 ensure that rigor is maintained in the content, teaching  
20 methodology, level of expectations for student achievement, and  
21 application of learning in all the courses taught to meet the  
22 graduation requirements as specified in this section.

23 2. The State Board of Education shall allow as much flexibility  
24 at the district level as is possible without diminishing the rigor

1 or undermining the intent of providing these courses. To accomplish  
2 this purpose, the State Department of Education shall work with  
3 school districts in reviewing and approving courses taught by  
4 districts that are not specifically listed in subsections B and D of  
5 this section. Options may include, but shall not be limited to,  
6 courses taken by concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, or  
7 correspondence, or courses bearing different titles.

8 3. The State Board of Education shall approve an advanced  
9 placement computer science course to meet the requirements of course  
10 competencies listed in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section  
11 if the course is taken in a student's senior year and the student is  
12 concurrently enrolled in or has successfully completed Algebra II.

13 4. Technology center school districts may offer programs  
14 designed in cooperation with institutions of higher education which  
15 have an emphasis on a focused field of career study upon approval of  
16 the State Board of Education and the independent district board of  
17 education. Students in the tenth grade may be allowed to attend  
18 these programs for up to one-half (1/2) of a school day and credit  
19 for the units or sets of competencies required in paragraphs 2, 3,  
20 and 6 of subsection B or D of this section shall be given if the  
21 courses are taught by a teacher certified in the secondary subject  
22 area; provided, credit for units or sets of competencies pursuant to  
23 subsection B of this section shall be approved for college admission  
24 requirements.

1           5. If a student enrolls in a concurrent course, the school  
2 district shall not be responsible for any costs incurred for that  
3 course, unless the school district does not offer enough course  
4 selection during the student's secondary grade years to allow the  
5 student to receive the courses needed to meet the graduation  
6 requirements of this section. If the school district does not offer  
7 the necessary course selection during the student's secondary grade  
8 years, it shall be responsible for the cost of resident tuition at  
9 an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
10 fees, and books for the concurrent enrollment course, and providing  
11 for transportation to and from the institution to the school site.

12           It is the intent of the Legislature that for students enrolled  
13 in a concurrent enrollment course which is paid for by the school  
14 district pursuant to this paragraph, the institution charge only the  
15 supplementary and special service fees that are directly related to  
16 the concurrent enrollment course and enrollment procedures for that  
17 student. It is further the intent of the Legislature that fees for  
18 student activities and student service facilities, including the  
19 student health care and cultural and recreational service fees, not  
20 be charged to such students.

21           6. Credit for the units or sets of competencies required in  
22 subsection B or D of this section shall be given when such units or  
23 sets of competencies are taken prior to ninth grade if the teachers  
24



1 are certified or authorized to teach the subjects for high school  
2 credit and the required rigor is maintained.

3 7. The three units or sets of competencies in mathematics  
4 required in subsection B or D of this section shall be completed in  
5 the ninth through twelfth grades. If a student completes any  
6 required courses or sets of competencies in mathematics prior to  
7 ninth grade, the student may take any other mathematics courses or  
8 sets of competencies to fulfill the requirement to complete three  
9 units or sets of competencies in grades nine through twelve after  
10 the student has satisfied the requirements of subsection B or D of  
11 this section.

12 8. All units or sets of competencies required for graduation  
13 may be taken in any sequence recommended by the school district.

14 I. As a condition of receiving accreditation from the State  
15 Board of Education, all students in grades nine through twelve shall  
16 enroll in a minimum of six periods, or the equivalent in block  
17 scheduling or other scheduling structure that allows for instruction  
18 in sets of competencies, of rigorous academic and/or rigorous  
19 vocational courses each day, which may include arts, vocal, and  
20 instrumental music, speech classes, and physical education classes.

21 J. 1. Academic and vocational-technical courses designed to  
22 offer sets of competencies integrated or embedded within the courses  
23 that provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills  
24 and knowledge in the subject matter standards, as adopted by the

1 State Board of Education, may, upon approval of the Board, in  
2 consultation with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology  
3 Education if the courses are offered at a technology center school  
4 district, be counted for academic credit and toward meeting the  
5 graduation requirements of this section.

6 2. Internet-based courses offered by a technology center school  
7 that are taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching  
8 and learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject  
9 matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education  
10 and the independent district board of education, be counted for  
11 academic credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of  
12 this section.

13 3. Internet-based courses or vocational-technical courses  
14 utilizing integrated or embedded skills for which no subject matter  
15 standards have been adopted by the State Board of Education may be  
16 approved by the Board, in consultation with the Oklahoma Department  
17 of Career and Technology Education if the courses are offered at a  
18 technology center school district, if such courses incorporate  
19 standards of nationally recognized professional organizations and  
20 are taught by certified teachers.

21 4. Courses offered by a supplemental education organization  
22 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and that are  
23 taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching and  
24 learning of the appropriate skills and knowledge in the subject  
25

1 matter standards may, upon approval of the State Board of Education  
2 and the school district board of education, be counted for academic  
3 credit and toward meeting the graduation requirements of this  
4 section.

5 K. The State Board of Education shall provide an option for  
6 high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels  
7 of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of  
8 Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the  
9 amount of course credits earned.

10 L. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt, and  
11 approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of  
12 specified levels of competencies in each area of the core  
13 curriculum.

14 M. Children who have individualized education programs pursuant  
15 to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and who  
16 satisfy the graduation requirements through the individualized  
17 education program for that student shall be awarded a standard  
18 diploma.

19 N. Students who enter the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-  
20 08 school year who are enrolled in an alternative education program  
21 and meet the requirements of their plans leading to high school  
22 graduation developed pursuant to Section 1210.568 of this title  
23 shall be awarded a standard diploma.

1 O. Any student who completes the curriculum requirements of the  
2 International Baccalaureate Diploma ~~Program~~ Programme shall be  
3 awarded a standard diploma.

4 P. Any student who successfully completes an advanced  
5 mathematics or science course offered pursuant to Section 1210.404  
6 of this title shall be granted academic credit toward meeting the  
7 graduation requirements pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3, as  
8 appropriate, of subsection B or D of this section.

9 Q. For purposes of this section, the courses approved for  
10 college admission requirements shall be courses which are approved  
11 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for admission to  
12 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

13 R. Students who have been denied a standard diploma by the  
14 school district in which the student is or was enrolled for failing  
15 to meet the requirements of this section may re-enroll in the school  
16 district that denied the student a standard diploma following the  
17 denial of a standard diploma. The student shall be provided  
18 remediation or intervention and the opportunity to complete the  
19 curriculum units or sets of competencies required by this section to  
20 obtain a standard diploma. Students who re-enroll in the school  
21 district to meet the graduation requirements of this section shall  
22 be exempt from the hourly instructional requirements of Section 1-  
23 111 of this title and the six-period enrollment requirements of this  
24 section.

1 S. The State Department of Education shall collect and report  
2 data by school site and district on the number of students who  
3 enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection D of this  
4 section.

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

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

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