

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 291

By: Haste

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 11-103.6, as last amended by Section 44,
9 Chapter 25, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section
10 11-103.6), which relates to curricular standards in
11 schools; including certain block course in the units
12 or sets of competencies for mathematics and
13 laboratory science; updating reference; providing an
14 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.6, as
17 last amended by Section 44, Chapter 25, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp.
18 2020, Section 11-103.6), is amended to read as follows:

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

25 2. School districts shall develop and implement curriculum,
26 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 of
6 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 also shall learn about cultures and environments
9 - their own and those of others with whom they share the earth.
10 Students, therefore, shall study social studies, literature,
11 languages, the arts, mathematics and science. Such curricula shall
12 provide for the teaching of a hands-on career exploration program in
13 cooperation with technology center schools.

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

20 5. The subject matter standards shall be designed with rigor as
21 defined in paragraph 3 of subsection F of this section.

22 6. The subject matter standards for English Language Arts shall
23 give Classic Literature and nonfiction literature equal
24

1 consideration to other literature. In addition, emphasis shall be
2 given to the study of complete works of literature.

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

8 8. The subject matter standards for history, social studies and
9 United States Government shall include the content of the United
10 States naturalization test, with an emphasis on the specific content
11 of the test and the ideas and concepts it references. The United
12 States naturalization test shall be made available in physical and
13 electronic online formats as an optional assessment tool for
14 teachers.

15 9. The subject matter standards for United States Government
16 shall include an emphasis on civics. For the purposes of this
17 section, "civics" means the study of the rights and duties of
18 Oklahoma and United States citizens and of how those governments
19 work.

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

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

4 2. Three units or sets of competencies of mathematics, limited
5 to:

6 a. Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math
7 Analysis, Calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics, ~~or~~

8 b. any mathematics course with content and/or rigor above
9 Algebra I and approved for college admission
10 requirements, or

11 c. a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
12 block course meeting the requirements for course
13 competencies listed in this paragraph, whether taught
14 at a:

15 (1) comprehensive high school, or

16 (2) technology center school when taken in the
17 tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by
18 a certified teacher, and approved by the
19 State Board of Education and the independent
20 district board of education;

21 3. Three units or sets of competencies of laboratory science
22 approved for college admission requirements, including:

23 a. one unit or set of competencies of life science,
24 meeting the standards for Biology I ~~and~~

1 b. one unit or set of competencies of physical science,
2 meeting the standards for Physical Science, Chemistry
3 or Physics;~~—and,~~

4 c. one unit or set of competencies from the domains of
5 physical science, life science or earth and space
6 science such that the content and rigor is above
7 Biology I or Physical Science, or

8 d. a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
9 block course meeting the requirements for course
10 competencies listed in this paragraph, whether taught
11 at a:

12 (1) comprehensive high school, or

13 (2) technology center school when taken in the tenth,
14 eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by a certified
15 teacher, and approved by the State Board of
16 Education and the independent district board of
17 education;

18 4. Three units or sets of competencies of history and
19 citizenship skills, including one unit of American History, 1/2 unit
20 of Oklahoma History, 1/2 unit of United States Government and one
21 unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography, Economics,
22 Civics, or non-Western culture and approved for college admission
23 requirements;

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

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

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

15 C. In lieu of the requirements of subsection B of this section
16 which requires a college preparatory/work ready curriculum, a
17 student may enroll in the core curriculum as provided in subsection
18 D of this section upon written approval of the parent or legal
19 guardian of the student. For students under the age of eighteen
20 (18) school districts shall require a parent or legal guardian of
21 the student to meet with a designee of the school prior to
22 enrollment in the core curriculum. The State Department of
23 Education shall develop and distribute to school districts a form
24 suitable for this purpose, which shall include information on the

1 benefits to students of completing the college preparatory/work
2 ready curriculum as provided for in subsection B of this section.

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

8 1. Language Arts - 4 units or sets of competencies, to consist
9 of 1 unit or set of competencies of grammar and composition, and 3
10 units or sets of competencies which may include, but are not limited
11 to, the following courses:

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

18 2. Mathematics - 3 units or sets of competencies, to consist of
19 1 unit or set of competencies of Algebra I or Algebra I taught in a
20 contextual methodology, and 2 units or sets of competencies which
21 may include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 22 a. Algebra II,
- 23 b. Geometry or Geometry taught in a contextual
24 methodology,

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

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

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

13 3. Science - 3 units or sets of competencies, to consist of 1
14 unit or set of competencies of Biology I or Biology I taught in a
15 contextual methodology, and 2 units or sets of competencies in the
16 areas of life, physical, or earth science or technology which may
17 include, but are not limited to, the following courses:

- 18 a. Chemistry I,
19 b. Physics,
20 c. Biology II,
21 d. Chemistry II,
22 e. Physical Science,
23 f. Earth Science,
24 g. Botany,

- 1 h. Zoology,
- 2 i. Physiology,
- 3 j. Astronomy,
- 4 k. Applied Biology/Chemistry,
- 5 l. Applied Physics,
- 6 m. Principles of Technology,
- 7 n. qualified agricultural education courses,
- 8 o. (1) contextual science courses which enhance
- 9 technology preparation, or
- 10 (2) a science, technology, engineering and math
- 11 (STEM) block course meeting the requirements for
- 12 course competencies listed in paragraph 3 of
- 13 subsection B of this section, whether taught at
- 14 a:
- 15 (a) comprehensive high school, or
- 16 (b) technology center school when taken in the
- 17 tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, taught by
- 18 a certified teacher, and approved by the
- 19 State Board of Education and the independent
- 20 district board of education,
- 21 p. science courses taught at a technology center school
- 22 by a teacher certified in the secondary subject area
- 23 when taken in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade
- 24

1 upon approval of the State Board of Education and the
2 independent district board of education, or

3 q. other science courses with content and/or rigor equal
4 to or above Biology I;

5 4. Social Studies - 3 units or sets of competencies, to consist
6 of 1 unit or set of competencies of United States History, 1/2 to 1
7 unit or set of competencies of United States Government, 1/2 unit or
8 set of competencies of Oklahoma History, and 1/2 to 1 unit or set of
9 competencies which may include, but are not limited to, the
10 following courses:

11 a. World History,

12 b. Geography,

13 c. Economics,

14 d. Anthropology, or

15 e. other social studies courses with content and/or rigor
16 equal to or above United States History, United States
17 Government, and Oklahoma History;

18 5. Arts - 1 unit or set of competencies which may include, but
19 is not limited to, courses in Visual Arts and General Music; and

20 6. Computer Education or World Language - 1 unit or set of
21 competencies of computer technology, whether taught at a high school
22 or a technology center school, including computer programming,
23 hardware and business computer applications, such as word
24 processing, databases, spreadsheets and graphics, excluding

1 keyboarding or typing courses, or 1 unit or set of competencies of
2 foreign or non-English language.

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

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

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

21 F. For purposes of this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 2. The State Board of Education shall allow as much flexibility
2 at the district level as is possible without diminishing the rigor
3 or undermining the intent of providing these courses. To accomplish
4 this purpose, the State Department of Education shall work with
5 school districts in reviewing and approving courses taught by
6 districts that are not specifically listed in subsections B and D of
7 this section. Options may include, but shall not be limited to,
8 courses taken by concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, or
9 correspondence, or courses bearing different titles.

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

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

1 subsection B of this section shall be approved for college admission
2 requirements.

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

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

23 6. Credit for the units or sets of competencies required in
24 subsection B or D of this section shall be given when such units or

1 sets of competencies are taken prior to ninth grade if the teachers
2 are certified or authorized to teach the subjects for high school
3 credit and the required rigor is maintained.

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

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

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

22 I. 1. Academic and vocational-technical courses designed to
23 offer sets of competencies integrated or embedded within the course
24 that provide for the teaching and learning of the appropriate skills

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

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

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

22 4. Courses offered by a supplemental education organization
23 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and that are
24 taught by a certified teacher and provide for the teaching and
25

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 O. 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 P. 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 Q. 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 R. 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, 2021.

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.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

58-1-80 EB 1/6/2021 11:58:53 AM