## 1 SENATE FLOOR VERSION February 21, 2023 2 3 SENATE BILL NO. 329 By: Bergstrom 4 5 An Act relating to school finance; amending 70 O.S. 6 2021, Section 3-104, which relates to powers and duties of the State Board of Education; updating 7 statutory language; modifying language regarding the Board's duty regarding federal funds and programs; 8 clarifying that a school district board of education 9 or any educational agency may make direct application for certain federal funds; updating statutory references; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 13-107, 10 which relates to acceptance of certain federal funds; clarifying that a school district board of education 11 or any educational agency may make direct application for certain federal funds; amending 70 O.S. 2021, 12 Section 18-104, which relates to the purpose of certain federal funds; updating statutory language; 13 adding reference to certain funds received directly by a school district; allowing a school district 14 board of education to apply for, receive, and expend certain federal funds beginning on certain date; 15 directing certain transactions to be reported using certain system; directing the State Department of 16 Education to review certain audit report and notify certain administrator of deficiencies; directing 17 certain action to be filed with certain audit report; providing for codification; and providing an 18 effective date. 19 20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104, is 22 amended to read as follows: 23 24

Section 3-104. A. The supervision of the public school system
of Oklahoma shall be vested in the State Board of Education and,
subject to limitations otherwise provided by law, the State Board of
Education shall:

1. Adopt policies and make rules for the operation of the public school system of the state;

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- 2. Appoint, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation of a secretary, an attorney, and all other personnel necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the State Board of Education. The secretary shall not be a member of the Board;
- 3. Submit to the Governor a departmental budget based upon major functions of the Department as prepared by the State

  Superintendent of Public Instruction and supported by detailed data on needs and proposed operations as partially determined by the budgetary needs of local school districts filed with the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal year. Appropriations therefor shall be made in lump-sum form for each major item in the budget as follows:
  - a. State Aid to schools,
  - b. the supervision of all other functions of general and special education including general control, free textbooks, school lunch, Indian education, and all other functions of the Board and an amount sufficient to adequately staff and administer these services, and

С.	the Board shall determine the details by which the
	budget and the appropriations are administered.
	Annually, the Board shall make preparations to
	consolidate all of the functions of the Department in
	such a way that the budget can be based on two items,
	administration and aid to schools. A maximum amount
	for administration shall be designated as a part of
	the total appropriation;

- 4. On the first day of December preceding each regular session of the Legislature, prepare and deliver to the Governor and the Legislature a report for the year ending June 30 immediately preceding the regular session of the Legislature. The report shall contain:
  - a. detailed statistics and other information concerning enrollment, attendance, expenditures including State Aid, and other pertinent data for all public schools in this state,
  - b. reports from each and every division within the State Department of Education as submitted by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and any other division, department, institution, or other agency under the supervision of the Board,
  - c. recommendations for the improvement of the public school system of the state,

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- d. a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the State Board of Education for the past year, and
  - e. a statement of plans and recommendations for the management and improvement of public schools and such other information relating to the educational interests of the state as may be deemed necessary and desirable;
- 5. Provide for the formulation and adoption of curricula, courses of study, and other instructional aids necessary for the adequate instruction of pupils in the public schools;
- 6. Have authority in matters pertaining to the licensure and certification of persons for instructional, supervisory, and administrative positions and services in the public schools of the state subject to the provisions of Section 6-184 of this title, and shall formulate rules governing the issuance and revocation of certificates for superintendents of schools, principals, supervisors, librarians, clerical employees, school nurses, school bus drivers, visiting teachers, classroom teachers, and for other personnel performing instructional, administrative, and supervisory services, but not including members of boards of education and other employees who do not work directly with pupils, and may charge and collect reasonable fees for the issuance of such certificates:
  - a. the State Department of Education shall not issue a certificate to and shall revoke the certificate of any

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person who has been convicted, whether upon a verdict or plea of guilty or upon a plea of nolo contendere, or received a suspended sentence or any probationary term for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime provided for in Section 843.5 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes if the offense involved sexual abuse or sexual exploitation as those terms are defined in Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 741, 843.1, if the offense included sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, 865 et seq., 885, 888, 891, 1021, 1021.2, 1021.3, 1040.13a, 1087, 1088, 1111.1, 1114 or 1123 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes or who enters this state and who has been convicted, received a suspended sentence, or received a deferred judgment for a crime or attempted crime which, if committed or attempted in this state, would be a crime or an attempt to commit a crime provided for in any of said the laws,

b. all funds collected by the State Department of Education for the issuance of certificates to instructional, supervisory, and administrative personnel in the public schools of the state shall be deposited in the "Teachers' Certificate Fund" in the State Treasury and may be expended by the State Board

1 of Education to finance the activities of the State 2 Department of Education necessary to administer the program, for consultative services, publication costs, 3 actual and necessary travel expenses as provided in 4 5 the State Travel Reimbursement Act incurred by persons performing research work, and other expenses found 6 necessary by the State Board of Education for the 7 improvement of the preparation and certification of 9 teachers in Oklahoma. Provided, any unobligated balance in the Teachers' Certificate Fund in excess of 10 Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) on June 30 of any 11 12 fiscal year shall be transferred to the General Revenue Fund of the State of Oklahoma this state. 13 Until July 1, 1997, the State Board of Education shall 14 have authority for approval of teacher education 15 programs. The State Board of Education shall also 16 have authority for the administration of teacher 17 residency and professional development, subject to the 18 provisions of the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; 19 7. Promulgate rules governing the classification, inspection, 20 21

supervision, and accrediting of all public nursery, kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools, and on-site educational services provided by public school districts or state-accredited private schools in partial hospitalization programs, day treatment programs,

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and day hospital programs as defined in this act for persons between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21) years of age in the state. However, no school shall be denied accreditation solely on the basis of average daily attendance.

Any school district which maintains an elementary school and faces the necessity of relocating its school facilities because of construction of a lake, either by state or federal authority, which will inundate the school facilities, shall be entitled to receive probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a period of five (5) years after the effective date of this act June 12, 1975, and any school district, otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to receive probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a period of two (2) consecutive years to attain the minimum average daily attendance. The Head Start and public nurseries or kindergartens operated from Community Action Program funds shall not be subjected to the accrediting rules of the State Board of Education. Neither will the State Board of Education make rules affecting the operation of the public nurseries and kindergartens operated from federal funds secured through Community Action Programs even though they may be operating in the public schools of the state. However, any of the Head Start or public nurseries or kindergartens operated under federal regulations may make application for accrediting from the State Board of Education but will be accredited only if application for the approval of the

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programs is made. The status of no school district shall be changed
which will reduce it to a lower classification until due notice has
been given to the proper authorities thereof and an opportunity
given to correct the conditions which otherwise would be the cause
of such reduction.

Private and parochial schools may be accredited and classified in like manner as public schools or, if an accrediting association is approved by the State Board of Education, by procedures established by the State Board of Education to accept accreditation by such accrediting association, if application is made to the State Board of Education for such accrediting;

8. Be the legal agent of the State of Oklahoma to accept, in its discretion, the provisions of any Act of Congress appropriating or apportioning funds which are now, or may hereafter be, provided for use in connection with any phase of the system of public education in Oklahoma. It shall prescribe such rules as it finds necessary to provide for the proper distribution of such funds in accordance with the state and federal laws Be the "state education agency" in the event the designation of a state education agency is required by federal laws which make available federal funds for educational purposes. The Board shall be the agency through which applications, reports, agreements, and federal funds are to be channeled, and the Board is hereby authorized and empowered to do all things necessary to comply with and carry out any such federal

1	law or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the
2	federal government or any agency thereof. Provided, however,
3	nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing any
4	school district board of education or any educational agency of this
5	state from making direct applications for or receiving directly
6	federal funds made available for educational purposes in those cases
7	where federal law permits direct applications for and receipt of
8	federal funds by any school district board of education or

- 9. Be and is specifically hereby designated as the agency of this state to cooperate and deal with any officer, board, or authority of the United States Government under any law of the United States which may require or recommend cooperation with any state board having charge of the administration of public schools unless otherwise provided by law;
- 10. Be and is hereby designated as the "State Educational Agency" referred to in Public Law 396 of the 79th Congress of the United States, which law states that said the act may be cited as the "National School Lunch Act", and said the State Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to accept the terms and provisions of said the act and to enter into such agreements, not in conflict with the Constitution of Oklahoma or the Constitution and Statutes of the United States, as may be necessary or appropriate to

educational agency of this state;

secure for the State of Oklahoma this state the benefits of the school lunch program established and referred to in said the act;

- 11. Have authority to secure and administer the benefits of the National School Lunch Act, Public Law 396 of the 79th Congress of the United States, in the State of Oklahoma this state and is hereby authorized to employ or appoint and fix the compensation of such additional officers or employees and to incur such expenses as may be necessary for the accomplishment of the above purpose, administer the distribution of any state funds appropriated by the Legislature required as federal matching to reimburse on children's meals;
- 12. Accept and provide for the administration of any land, money, buildings, gifts, donation, or other things of value which may be offered or bequeathed to the schools under the supervision or control of said the Board;
- 13. Have authority to require persons having administrative control of all school districts in Oklahoma to make such regular and special reports regarding the activities of the schools in said the districts as the Board may deem needful for the proper exercise of its duties and functions. Such authority shall include the right of the State Board of Education to withhold all state funds under its control, to withhold official recognition, including accrediting, until such required reports have been filed and accepted in the office of said the Board and to revoke the certificates of persons failing or refusing to make such reports;

14. Have general supervision of the school lunch program. The State Board of Education may sponsor workshops for personnel and participants in the school lunch program and may develop, print, and distribute free of charge or sell any materials, books, and bulletins to be used in such the school lunch programs. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Board, to be designated the School Lunch Workshop Revolving Fund. The fund shall consist of all fees derived from or on behalf of any participant in any such workshop sponsored by the State Board of Education, or from the sale of any materials, books, and bulletins, and such funds shall be disbursed for expenses of such workshops and for developing, printing, and distributing of such the materials, books, and bulletins relating to the school lunch program. The fund shall be administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

- 15. Prescribe all forms for school district and county officers to report to the State Board of Education where required. The State Board of Education shall also prescribe a list of appropriation accounts by which the funds of school districts shall be budgeted, accounted for, and expended; and it shall be the duty of the State Auditor and Inspector in prescribing all budgeting, accounting, and reporting forms for school funds to conform to such lists;
- 16. Provide for the establishment of a uniform system of pupil and personnel accounting, records, and reports;

- 17. Have authority to provide for the health and safety of school children and school personnel while under the jurisdiction of school authorities;
- 18. Provide for the supervision of the transportation of pupils;

- 19. Have authority, upon request of the local school board, to act in behalf of the public schools of the state in the purchase of transportation equipment;
- 20. Have authority and is hereby required to perform all duties necessary to the administration of the public school system in Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School Code; and, in addition thereto, those duties not specifically mentioned herein if not delegated by law to any other agency or official;
- 21. Administer the State Public Common School Building
  Equalization Fund established by Section 32 of Article X of the
  Oklahoma Constitution. Any monies as may be appropriated or
  designated by the Legislature, other than ad valorem taxes, any
  other funds identified by the State Department of Education, which
  may include, but not be limited to, grants-in-aid from the federal
  government for building purposes, the proceeds of all property that
  shall fall to the state by escheat, penalties for unlawful holding
  of real estate by corporations, and capital gains on assets of the
  permanent school funds, shall be deposited in the State Public
  Common School Building Equalization Fund. The fund shall be used to

1 aid school districts and charter schools in acquiring buildings, subject to the limitations fixed by Section 32 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution. It is hereby declared that the term 3 "acquiring buildings" as used in Section 32 of Article X of the 5 Oklahoma Constitution shall mean acquiring or improving school sites, constructing, repairing, remodeling, or equipping buildings, or acquiring school furniture, fixtures, or equipment. It is hereby declared that the term "school districts" as used in Section 32 of 9 Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall mean school districts and eligible charter schools as defined in subsection B of this 10 The State Board of Education shall disburse redbud school 11 12 grants annually from the State Public Common School Building Equalization Fund to public schools and eligible charter schools 13 pursuant to subsection B of this section. The Board shall 14 promulgate rules for the implementation of disbursing redbud school 15 grants pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education shall 16 prescribe rules for making grants of aid from, and for otherwise 17 administering, the fund pursuant to the provisions of this 18 paragraph, and may employ and fix the duties and compensation of 19 technicians, aides, clerks, stenographers, attorneys, and other 20 personnel deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this 21 The cost of administering the fund shall be paid from 22 paragraph. monies appropriated to the State Board of Education for the 23 operation of the State Department of Education. From monies 24

apportioned to the fund, the State Department of Education may reserve not more than one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) for purposes of administering the fund;

- 22. Recognize that the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections shall be the administrative authority for the schools which are maintained in the state reformatories and shall appoint the principals and teachers in such schools. Provided, that rules of the State Board of Education for the classification, inspection, and accreditation of public schools shall be applicable to such schools; and such schools shall comply with standards set by the State Board of Education; and
- 23. Have authority to administer a revolving fund which is hereby created in the State Treasury, to be designated the Statistical Services Revolving Fund. The fund shall consist of all monies received from the various school districts of the state, the United States Government, and other sources for the purpose of furnishing or financing statistical services and for any other purpose as designated by the Legislature. The State Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with school districts, municipalities, the United States Government, foundations, and other agencies or individuals for services, programs, or research projects. The Statistical Services Revolving Fund shall be administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

B. 1. The redbud school grants shall be determined by the State Department of Education as follows:

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- a. divide the county four-mill levy revenue by four to determine the nonchargeable county four-mill revenue for each school district,
- b. determine the amount of new revenue generated by the five-mill building fund levy as authorized by Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution for each school district as reported in the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System for the preceding fiscal year,
- c. add the amounts calculated in subparagraphs a and b of this paragraph to determine the nonchargeable millage for each school district,
- d. add the nonchargeable millage in each district statewide as calculated in subparagraph c of this paragraph and divide the total by the average daily membership in public schools statewide based on the preceding school year's average daily membership, according to the provisions of Section 18-107 of this title. This amount is the statewide nonchargeable millage per student, known as the baseline local funding per student,
- e. all eligible charter schools shall be included in these calculations as unique school districts,

separate from the school district that may sponsor the
eligible charter school, and the total number of
districts shall be used to determine the statewide
average baseline local funding per student,

f. for each school district or eligible charter school

- which is below the baseline local funding per student,
  the Department shall subtract the baseline local
  funding per student from the average nonchargeable
  millage per student of the school district or eligible
  charter school to determine the nonchargeable millage
  per student shortfall for each district, and
- g. the nonchargeable millage per student shortfall for a school district or eligible charter school shall be multiplied by the average daily membership of the preceding school year of the eligible school district or eligible charter school. This amount shall be the redbud school grant amount for the school district or eligible charter school.
- 2. For fiscal year 2022, monies for the redbud school grants shall be expended from the funds apportioned pursuant to Section 2

  Section 426 of this act Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. For fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year, monies for the redbud school grants shall be appropriated pursuant to Section 2

  Section 426 of this act Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, not to

- 1 exceed three-fourths (3/4) of the tax collected in the preceding fiscal year pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes as determined by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. For fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year, if such appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the redbud school grants, then an additional apportionment of funds shall be made from sales tax collections as provided by subsection D of <del>Section 3</del> Section 1353 of this act Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If both funds are insufficient, the Department shall promulgate rules to permit a decrease to the baseline local funding per student to the highest amount allowed with the funding available.
  - 3. As used in this section, "eligible charter school" shall mean a charter school which is sponsored pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Charter School Schools Act. Provided, however, "eligible charter school" shall not include a charter school sponsored by the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board but shall only include those which provide in-person or blended instruction, as provided by Section 1-111 of this title, to not less than twothirds (2/3) of students as the primary means of instructional service delivery.
  - The Department shall develop a program to acknowledge the redbud school grant recipients and shall include elected members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Oklahoma State Senate who represent the school districts and eligible charter schools.

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- 5. The Department shall create a dedicated page on its website listing annual redbud school grant recipients, amount awarded to each recipient, and other pertinent information about the Redbud School Funding Act.
- 6. The Department shall provide the Chair of the House
  Appropriations and Budget Committee and the Chair of the Senate
  Appropriations Committee no later than February 1 of each year with
  an estimate of the upcoming year's redbud school grant allocation as
  prescribed by this section.
- SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 13-107, is amended to read as follows:

Section 13-107. The State Board of Education is hereby empowered to accept and disburse any grants or funds that may be matched by or received from the federal government for the education of exceptional children and to make necessary rules and regulations for such purpose. Provided, however, nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing any school district board of education or any educational agency of this state from making direct applications for or receiving directly federal funds made available for the education of exceptional children in those cases where the federal law permits direct applications for and receipt of federal funds by any school district board of education or educational agency of this state.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 18-104, is amended to read as follows:

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Section 18-104. A. The funds apportioned and disbursed to the several school districts of the state shall be for the purpose of aiding each school district receiving the same to finance its school budget for each fiscal year. The State Board of Education shall notify the county clerk, the board of education, superintendent of each school district, and the school district treasurer of the tentative amount said the district is to receive from the funds apportioned under the provisions of this article and disbursed according to the provisions hereof. After such allocation of State Aid has been made by the State Board of Education and certified to the treasurer of the school district and district superintendent of schools, such the amount of aid may be included as probable income by the board of education in its Estimate of Needs and Financial Statement financial statement and estimate of needs as submitted to the county excise board, and said the excise board shall include such the amount in the approved appropriations, and in addition thereto any federal aid certified or allocated by the State Board of Education or received directly by the school district shall be included in the appropriation made by the excise board if requested by the board of education; provided, no such federal aid estimate shall be used in any way to reduce the State Foundation Aid or Incentive Aid for such the school district or sustain a protest for

1 the reduction of a tax levy. If such the allocation of aid is not included in the board of education's estimate of needs, it shall be added by the county clerk to the items of appropriation designated 3 by the board of education of the school district. Funds received 5 under the provisions of this article shall be deposited in the general fund of such the school district. Provided, funds received 6 from the federal government for current expense purposes shall likewise be added to the appropriation of the general fund if so 9 designated by the board of education of such the school district. 10 Provided, further, that the board of education of a school district 11 may enter into agreements with federal agencies for educational 12 projects and programs to be maintained in such districts the district; and federal funds received by the district in pursuance 13 thereof shall, consistent with the agreement and requirements of the 14 federal agency, be kept, administered and disbursed in such manner 15 as may be prescribed by rules and regulations of the board of 16 education. 17

B. If the State Board of Education should ascertain that allocation of State Aid to any school district has so changed as to reduce its State Aid, then the State Board of Education shall forthwith notify the district superintendent, the clerk of the board of education, and the treasurer thereof, as to the amount of reduction in the allocation of State Aid. If there has been an overpayment, the same shall be returned to the State Treasurer and

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credited to a refund account which shall be available for further

payment of State Aid. Whenever it becomes necessary for a school

district to refund any overpayment of monies previously received,

the school district shall issue such a warrant against a properly

approved encumbrance in the manner provided by law. Such The claim

or encumbrance shall be coded as a refund of prior revenue and paid

from the current expense appropriation of the general fund or such

other another fund or account from which such the refund may

properly be paid by the school district.

- SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 18-126 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. Beginning October 1, 2024, a school district board of education may make and file applications for federal funds appropriated and made available for school purposes by federal law.

  A school district may receive from the federal government, or any of its agencies, and expend any funds made available under existing law, rules, or regulations or that may hereafter be made available for any and all school purposes.
- B. School districts shall report financial transactions for federal funds received pursuant to subsection A of this section using the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System.
- C. The State Department of Education shall review each audit report submitted pursuant to the Oklahoma Public School Audit Law

1	and notify the appropriate federal program administrator of any
2	deficiencies reported by the independent auditor regarding federal
3	programs. The administrator shall implement the procedures deemed
4	necessary to resolve the exceptions noted by the auditor. The final
5	result of the action taken will be filed with the audit report no
6	later than ninety (90) days after the program administrator has been
7	advised of the auditor's findings.
8	D. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
9	implement the provisions of this section.
10	SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.
11	COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION February 21, 2023 - DO PASS
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