

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 SENATE BILL 598

By: Stanislawski

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school consolidation; requiring
8 the State Department of Education to publish certain
9 list by certain date; providing guidelines for list;
10 allowing school districts included on certain list to
11 submit petition for voluntary administrative
12 consolidation; providing timeline for administrative
13 consolidation of districts based on average daily
14 membership; defining term; requiring the State Board
15 of Education to consolidate the administrative
16 services of certain school districts; providing
17 requirements for administrative consolidation
18 agreements; requiring the State Department of
19 Education to publish annual list beginning on certain
20 date; allowing school districts included on certain
21 list to submit petition for voluntary administrative
22 consolidation; requiring the State Board of Education
23 to consolidate the administrative services of certain
24 school districts; allowing school districts included
25 on certain lists to apply for certain exemption;
26 providing criteria for granting of exemption;
27 providing for promulgation of rules; providing for
28 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

31 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
32 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7-207 of Title 70, unless there
33 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
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1 A. By February 1, 2021, the State Department of Education shall
2 publish a list of all dependent and independent school districts
3 that received a school grade of D or lower on the annual report
4 issued pursuant to Section 1210.545 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
5 Statutes and had an average daily membership (ADM) of less than two
6 hundred fifty (250) for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years.

7 B. 1. A school district included in the list published
8 pursuant to subsection A of this section may voluntarily agree to
9 consolidate its administrative services with a contiguous school
10 district or districts pursuant to the provisions of this section.

11 2. A district that chooses to voluntarily consolidate its
12 administrative services with a contiguous school district or
13 districts shall submit a petition for approval to the State Board of
14 Education by September 30 immediately preceding the applicable
15 consolidation completion dates specified in paragraph 3 of this
16 subsection. The petition shall set forth the terms of the
17 consolidation agreement.

18 3. If the petition is approved by the State Board of Education,
19 the consolidation of administrative services shall be completed in
20 accordance with the following schedule:

21 a. for school districts with an ADM of less than one
22 hundred (100) for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school
23 years, consolidation of administrative services shall
24 be complete by July 1, 2022, and

1 b. for school districts with an ADM of less than two
2 hundred fifty (250) for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020
3 school years and not subject to subparagraph a of this
4 paragraph, consolidation of administrative services
5 shall be complete by July 1, 2023.

6 4. For the purposes of this section, "administrative services"
7 shall mean the duties of any employee of a school district employed
8 as a superintendent, assistant superintendent, director, coordinator
9 or supervisor and the duties of any employee who has responsibility
10 for administrative functions of a school district, including but not
11 limited to human resources, purchasing, accounting and information
12 technology. "Administrative services" shall not mean the duties of
13 principals or assistant principals.

14 C. If a school district included in the list published pursuant
15 to subsection A of this section does not submit a petition to
16 voluntarily consolidate administrative services with a contiguous
17 district or districts, the State Board of Education shall formulate
18 an agreement between the district and a contiguous district or
19 districts outlining how administrative services will be shared and
20 how the costs will be allocated. Such action shall be taken in
21 accordance with the applicable consolidation completion dates
22 specified in paragraph 3 of subsection B of this section.

23 D. The State Board of Education shall take action necessary to
24 assist school districts included in the list published pursuant to

1 subsection A of this section to reach an administrative
2 consolidation agreement. Any agreement for sharing administrative
3 services shall address the division of:

4 1. Time of each employee;

5 2. Payment of benefits of each employee;

6 3. Contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma
7 for each employee;

8 4. How each employee will be counted for calculating certain
9 weights for purposes of the State Aid formula as provided for in
10 Section 18-201.1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

11 5. Payment of any employees who are employed on a continuing
12 multi-year contract at the time administrative services are
13 consolidated.

14 E. 1. Beginning February 1, 2024, and each February 1
15 thereafter, the State Department of Education shall publish a list
16 of all dependent and independent school districts that received a
17 school grade of D or lower on the annual report issued pursuant to
18 Section 1210.545 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and had an ADM
19 of less than two hundred fifty (250) for the preceding two (2)
20 school years.

21 2. A school district included in the list published pursuant to
22 paragraph 1 of this subsection may voluntarily agree to consolidate
23 its administrative services with a contiguous school district or
24 districts pursuant to the provisions of this section.

1 3. A district that chooses to voluntarily consolidate its
2 administrative services with a contiguous school district or
3 districts shall submit a petition for approval to the State Board of
4 Education by September 30 immediately following publication of the
5 list required by paragraph 1 of this subsection. The petition shall
6 set forth the terms of the administrative consolidation agreement.

7 4. If the petition is approved by the State Board of Education,
8 the administrative consolidation shall be completed by July 1 of the
9 second year following publication of the list required by paragraph
10 1 of this subsection.

11 5. A school district that does not submit a petition to
12 voluntarily consolidate its administrative services with a
13 contiguous district or districts shall be subject to the provisions
14 of subsection C of this section.

15 F. A school district included in the list published pursuant to
16 subsections A or E of this section may apply to the State Board of
17 Education for an exemption from the administrative consolidation
18 required by this section if the high school within the district is
19 more than sixty (60) miles from the nearest high school of a
20 contiguous district. A request for an exemption shall be submitted
21 to the State Board of Education by May 1 immediately following
22 publication of the list required by subsections A or E of this
23 section.

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G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

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