

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 285

By: Ford

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 11-103.7, which relates to early childhood
9 education programs; directing the State Board of
10 Education to align standards for early childhood
11 education programs with certain standards; and
12 providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.7, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 11-103.7. A. Each school district may offer to four-
17 year-old children the opportunity to participate in an early
18 childhood education program.

19 B. The State Board of Education shall promulgate standards for
20 early childhood education programs for children who are at least
21 four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of the ensuing school
22 year. The standards shall include both half-day programs consisting
23 of not less than two and one-half (2 1/2) hours per school day, and
24 full-day programs of six (6) hours. The standards for all early
childhood education programs shall require a certified teacher, as

1 specified in this section, to be present in the classroom for the
2 length of the school day. Such program shall:

3 1. Be directed toward developmentally appropriate objectives
4 for such children, rather than toward academic objectives suitable
5 for older children;

6 2. Accommodate the needs of all children and families
7 regardless of socioeconomic circumstances; and

8 3. Require that any teacher employed by a public school to
9 teach in such early childhood education program shall be certified
10 in early childhood education.

11 C. The superintendent of any school district providing
12 classroom space or other school facilities for a federally sponsored
13 Head Start program that is planning to make a material change in the
14 arrangement, shall give notice to the director of the Head Start
15 program at least seven (7) days prior to a school board hearing on
16 the matter.

17 D. A school district may offer such early childhood education
18 program within the district, in cooperation with other districts,
19 through the use of transfers as specified by law, or by contracting
20 with a private or public provider of early childhood education
21 programs, or by contracting for classroom space with a licensed
22 public or private child care provider based upon selection criteria
23 established by the district. If the program is provided through
24 contract with a private or public provider other than a school

1 district, the contract may only be continued if each teacher serving
2 the school on and after January 1, 1993, is certified in early
3 childhood education, except that all teachers, without such
4 certification, hired by such provider prior to January 1, 1993, and
5 serving in the school as an early childhood education teacher shall
6 be required to obtain certification on or before the beginning of
7 the 1996-97 school year. Any person who has been employed as an
8 early childhood educator with the Head Start Program, has a child
9 development associate degree (CDA) and has at least five (5) years
10 of experience in such employment shall be certified in early
11 childhood education for purposes of employment in the public schools
12 of this state to teach in early childhood education for children
13 four (4) years of age and younger; if such person is recertified in
14 child development by the Council for Early Childhood Professional
15 Recognition within five (5) years prior to the expiration of the
16 person's early childhood certificate that was issued by the State
17 Board of Education, such person shall be granted a renewal
18 certificate in early childhood education by the State Board of
19 Education upon expiration of the early childhood certificate.
20 Provided, private or public providers shall meet such other
21 standards required by law and by the State Board of Education.

22 E. If an early childhood program is provided by a private or
23 public provider pursuant to a contract as authorized in this
24 section, the contract shall address the requirements for

1 implementing the residency program for resident teachers as required
2 in Section 6-195 of this title. Teachers employed by a private or
3 public provider in an early childhood education program provided
4 through contract with a public school district shall receive in
5 salary and/or fringe benefits amounts not less than the amounts
6 specified in the schedule set forth in Section 18-114.7 of this
7 title.

8 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
9 provide for the implementation of such program.

10 G. An early childhood education program may be offered jointly
11 by school districts that have formed interlocal cooperative
12 agreements pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title.

13 H. The term "pre-kindergarten" shall mean early childhood
14 education for purposes of this title.

15 I. Following adoption of the subject matter standards pursuant
16 to Section 11-103.6a of this title, the State Board of Education
17 shall align the standards for early childhood education programs
18 with the newly adopted standards.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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