STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE BILL 1007

By: Rosecrants

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 246, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 6-194), which relates to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; requiring professional development program to include consent and healthy relationships education; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-100.5, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 246, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 24-100.5), which relates to the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act; allowing a Safe School Committee to make recommendations about developing a consent and healthy relationships program; providing guidelines for program; directing development of model policy and training materials for certain programs; prescribing distribution of certain research-based programs; requiring use of program listed by the State Department of Health; mandating statewide tracking of the implementation and evaluation of programs; 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. 2011, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 246, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this state shall establish professional development programs for the
certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a professional development committee appointed by the board of education for the district. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a school district board of education may elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for certified teachers and administrators of the district. If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development program, the district may expend any monies allocated for professional development for any purpose related to the support and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of education of the school district.

B. Each professional development committee shall include classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

C. In developing program recommendations, each professional development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach
to analyze student data and determine district and school professional development needs. The professional development programs adopted shall be directed toward development of competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum areas for the following goals:

1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the district and each school site;
2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-mandated tests and the ACT;
4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and
5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

Each program may also include components on classroom management and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis.

D. At a minimum of once an academic year a program shall be offered which includes the following:

1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and

4. Consent and healthy relationships education; and

5. Available resources.

E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to complete the autism training at least one time every three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or credit required each year through programs or courses specifically designed for school counselors.

Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited to, professional development provided by the district, any state agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.  

F. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district
board of education to meet the professional development requirements established by the board, or established through the negotiation process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the professional development requirements established by each board of education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum number of the total number of points required to maintain employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of education professional development requirements may be grounds for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments affecting the teacher. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012, a certified teacher shall not be required to complete any points of the total number of professional development points required. Provided, a teacher may elect to complete some or all of the minimum number of points required for the two (2) fiscal years and any points completed shall be counted toward the total number of points required to maintain employment. If a teacher does not complete some or all of the minimum number of points required for one (1) or both fiscal years, the total number of points required to maintain employment shall be adjusted and reduced by the number of points not completed.

G. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State Department of Education on the district level professional development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results.
achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development program as provided for in subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but shall report to the State Department of Education its election not to offer a program and all professional development activities completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

H. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection E of this section. The Department shall also make such information available on its website.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-100.5, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 246, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 24-100.5), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-100.5 A. Every year each public school site shall establish a Safe School Committee to be composed of at least seven (7) members. The Safe School Committee shall be composed of teachers, parents of enrolled students, students, and a school official who participates in the investigation of reports of bullying as required by subsection A of Section 24-100.4 of this title. The Committee may include administrators, school staff, school volunteers, community representatives, and local law enforcement agencies. The Committee shall assist the school board
in promoting a positive school climate through planning,
implementing and evaluating effective prevention, readiness and
response strategies, including the policy required by Section 24-
100.4 of this title.

B. The Safe School Committee shall study and make
recommendations to the principal regarding:

1. Unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students, faculty
and staff to avoid physical and emotional harm at school, student
victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues
which prohibit the maintenance of a safe school;

2. Student bullying as defined in Section 24-100.3 of this
title;

3. Professional development needs of faculty and staff to
recognize and implement methods to decrease student bullying; and

4. Methods to encourage the involvement of the community and
students, the development of individual relationships between
students and school staff, and use of problem-solving teams and
resources that include counselors and other behavioral health and
suicide prevention resources within or outside the school system.

In its considerations, the Safe School Committee shall review
the district policy for the prevention of bullying and the list of
research-based programs appropriate for the prevention of bullying
of students at school compiled by the State Department of Education.

In addition, the Committee may review traditional and accepted
bullying prevention programs utilized by other states, state agencies, or school districts.

C. The Safe School Committee may study and make recommendations to the school district board of education regarding the:

1. The development of a rape or sexual assault response program that may be implemented at the school site; and

2. The development of a consent and healthy relationships education program which shall:

   a. be medically accurate and appropriate for the student's age, developmental stage and culture,

   b. promote safe and healthy relationships and teach students to recognize and prevent coercion, violence or abuse, including physical and emotional relationship abuse, and

   c. include education regarding relationship communication skills, emotional health, accountability and well-being in relationships and consent.

D. The State Department of Education shall:

1. Develop a model policy and deliver training materials to all school districts on the components that should be included in a school district policy for the prevention of bullying, for a rape or sexual assault response program and for a consent and healthy relationships program; and
2. Compile and distribute to each public school site, prominently display on the State Department of Education website and annually publicize in print media a list of research-based programs appropriate for the prevention of bullying of students and for a consent and healthy relationships program. If a school district implements a commercial bullying prevention program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Education. If a school district implements a commercial consent and healthy relationships program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Health; and

3. Track the implementation and evaluation of bullying prevention and consent and healthy relationships education program by school districts statewide.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to technology center schools.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.