

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                   1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1466

By: West (Tammy) of the House

6                   and

7                   **Pugh** of the Senate

8

9                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10                  An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
11                  Section 3-104.4, which relates to accreditation  
12                  standards; adding deficiencies to standards;  
13                  clarifying terms; prohibiting certain changes to  
14                  accreditation status before opportunity for hearing  
15                  is given; permitting school districts to request a  
                    hearing on accreditation recommendations; providing  
                    hearing notice requirements; providing request  
                    timeline; directing the State Department of Education  
                    to promulgate rules; providing an effective date; and  
                    declaring an emergency.

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

19                  SECTION 1.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104.4, is  
20                  amended to read as follows:

21                  Section 3-104.4. A. The State Board of Education shall adopt  
22                  standards for the accreditation of the public schools in this state  
23                  according to the requirements of Section 3-104.3 et seq. of this  
24                  title, to be effective as set forth in Section 3-104.3 et seq. of

1 this title. The accreditation standards shall incorporate the  
2 curricular standards established pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of  
3 this title. The accreditation standards shall equal or exceed  
4 nationally recognized accreditation standards to the extent that the  
5 standards are consistent with an academic results oriented approach  
6 to accreditation. The accreditation adopted by the State Board  
7 shall encompass accreditation for elementary schools, middle  
8 schools, junior high schools, and high schools. The accreditation  
9 standards shall be made available for public inspection at the  
10 offices of the State Department of Education.

11       B. Standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board of  
12 Education shall include standards relating to the provision of  
13 school counselors to the public school children of this state. The  
14 State Board of Education shall require each local school district to  
15 provide information regarding the number of counselors serving each  
16 school site, the duties of all such counselors including all  
17 administrative duties, the number of students served by each  
18 counselor, and information regarding the number of counselors  
19 employed per elementary school, middle school, junior high school  
20 and high school.

21       C. 1. Except as otherwise provided, schools shall meet the  
22 accreditation standards as a condition of continued accreditation.  
23 Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing changes to the  
24

1 adopted standards by the State Board of Education pursuant to the  
2 Administrative Procedures Act.

3       2. The accreditation standards shall provide for deficiencies,  
4 warnings, probation or nonaccredited status for schools that fail to  
5 meet one or more of the standards.

6       3. The Department State Department of Education shall  
7 investigate a complaint of failure to provide educational services  
8 or failure to comply with accreditation standards within thirty (30)  
9 days of receiving the complaint. If the Department State Department  
10 of Education determines that a school has failed to comply with the  
11 accreditation standards, the Department shall report the recommended  
12 deficiency, warning, probation or nonaccredited accreditation status  
13 to the State Board of Education within ninety (90) days. Before the  
14 State Board of Education may change a school districts'  
15 accreditation status from a warning to probation, or from probation  
16 to non-accredited based on a recommendation by the State Department  
17 of Education as described in this paragraph, the school district  
18 shall be given an opportunity to request a hearing before the State  
19 Board of Education pursuant to the due process procedures adopted by  
20 the Board as provided for in this subsection. The State Board of  
21 Education shall send the applicable school district notice of a  
22 right to a hearing within ten (10) working days of receiving the  
23 recommendations. The hearing shall be conducted by the State Board  
24 of Education. All notices shall be sent by certified mail, with the

1 postmark used to determine the timeliness of the notice. If the  
2 school district fails to request a hearing within ten (10) working  
3 days of receipt of such notice, the district's right to a hearing  
4 shall be waived.

5       4. If a school district does not request a due process hearing  
6 within ten (10) working days notice from the Board, and the school  
7 or school district does not take action to comply with the  
8 accreditation standards within ninety (90) days after a report is  
9 filed by the Department, the Board shall withdraw accreditation for  
10 the school.

11       5. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
12 regarding notice and hearing of accreditation status pursuant to  
13 this section and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures  
14 Act.

15       6. The State Board of Education accreditation ~~regulations~~ rules  
16 shall provide for warnings and for assistance to schools and school  
17 districts whenever there is reason to believe a school is in danger  
18 of losing its state accreditation.

19       D. If one or more school sites fail to receive accreditation as  
20 required pursuant to this section or subsequently lose  
21 accreditation, the State Board of Education shall close the school  
22 and reassign the students to accredited schools within the district  
23 or shall annex the district to one or more other districts in which  
24 the students can be educated in accredited schools.

1       E. Standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board of  
2 Education shall include standards relating to the provision of  
3 educational services provided in partial hospitalization programs,  
4 day treatment programs, day hospital programs, residential treatment  
5 programs and emergency shelter programs for persons between the ages  
6 of three (3) and twenty-one (21) years of age. The accreditation  
7 standards shall apply to on-site and off-site educational services  
8 provided by public school districts or state-accredited private  
9 schools. Each school which is providing or is required to provide  
10 educational services for students placed in a program as described  
11 in this subsection shall be actively monitored by the State  
12 Department of Education. The Department shall determine on an  
13 ongoing basis if the educational program and services are in  
14 compliance with the accreditation standards.

15       F. The State Board shall provide assistance to districts in  
16 considering the possibility of meeting accreditation requirements  
17 through the use of nontraditional means of instruction. The State  
18 Board shall also assist districts in forming cooperatives and making  
19 arrangements for the use of satellite instruction or other  
20 instructional technologies to the extent that use of such  
21 instructional means meets accreditation standards.

22       G. 1. Accreditation shall not be withdrawn from or denied nor  
23 shall a penalty be assessed against a school or school district for  
24 failing to meet the media materials and equipment standards, media

1 program expenditure standards and media personnel standards as set  
2 forth in the accreditation standards adopted by the Board.

3       2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall cease  
4 to be effective during the fiscal year which begins on the July 1  
5 immediately succeeding the legislative session during which the  
6 measure appropriating monies to the State Board of Education for the  
7 financial support of public schools is enacted as law and such  
8 appropriation amount is at least Fifty Million Dollars  
9 (\$50,000,000.00) greater than the amount of money appropriated to  
10 the State Board of Education for the financial support of public  
11 schools for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, pursuant to  
12 Chapter 146, O.S.L. 2018. Provided, the Fifty Million Dollars  
13 (\$50,000,000.00) shall not include any amount of appropriations  
14 dedicated for support or certified employee salary increases.

15 Accreditation shall not be withdrawn from or denied nor shall a  
16 penalty be assessed against a school or school district for failing  
17 to meet the media personnel standards as set forth in accreditation  
18 standards adopted by the Board.

19       H. 1. The State Board shall not assess a financial penalty  
20 against any school district which is given a deficiency in  
21 accreditation status during any fiscal year as provided for in this  
22 subsection.

23       2. Beginning with the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2021, if  
24 the amount of money appropriated to the State Board of Education for

1 the financial support of public schools including funds apportioned  
2 pursuant to Section 2 426 of ~~this act~~ Title 63 of the Oklahoma  
3 Statutes, is at least One Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000.00)  
4 greater than the amount of money appropriated to the State Board of  
5 Education for the financial support of public schools for the fiscal  
6 year ending June 30, 2019, pursuant to Chapter 146, O.S.L. 2018, a  
7 financial penalty shall be assessed against any school districts  
8 that do not comply with the class size limitations for kindergarten  
9 as provided for in Section 18-113.2 of this title and class size  
10 limitations for grade one as provided for in subsection A of Section  
11 18-113.1 of this title. Provided, the One Hundred Million Dollars  
12 (\$100,000,000.00) shall not include any amount of appropriations  
13 dedicated for support or certified employee salary increases.

14       3. The State Department of Education shall submit a report on  
15 statewide classroom sizes to the President Pro Tempore of the  
16 Oklahoma State Senate and the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of  
17 Representatives no later than January 1, 2022.

18       I. Except as provided for in subsection J of this section,  
19 beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, evaluations of schools to  
20 determine whether they meet the accreditation standards set forth in  
21 accordance with this section shall occur once every four (4) years  
22 on a schedule adopted by the State Board of Education. The Board  
23 may interrupt the evaluation schedule provided in this subsection  
24 for reasons including a change in the superintendent of the school

1 district; determination that one or more school district board  
2 members have not met the continuing education requirements as  
3 defined by this title; determination that the school district  
4 falsified information submitted to any public city, county, state or  
5 federal official or agency; initiation of an investigation by the  
6 Board or a law enforcement agency; or other determination by the  
7 Board that standards for accreditation are not being met by the  
8 school district. The schedule adopted by the Board shall allow for  
9 school districts receiving no deficiencies for two (2) consecutive  
10 years to be reviewed for accreditation less than annually.

11 Provided, however, that schools shall be evaluated annually for the  
12 purposes of:

13       1. Local, state and federal funding;

14       2. Health and safety;

15       3. Certification requirements for teachers, principals and  
16 superintendents;

17       4. School board governance, including instructional and

18 continuing education requirements for school board members; and

19       5. Any other requirements under state or federal law.

20       J. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, if a public school  
21 receives a deficiency on its accreditation report, the public school  
22 shall be evaluated annually to determine if it meets the  
23 accreditation standards set forth in accordance with this section.

24 If the public school receives no deficiencies for two (2)

1 consecutive years, the public school shall be subject to the  
2 evaluation timeline established in subsection I of this section.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

4 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
5 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OVERSIGHT, dated  
03/05/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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