

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1086

By: Lowe (Dick) of the House

and

Pugh of the Senate

An Act relating to school funding; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-117, which relates to school district general funds; updating statutory reference; removing language exempting certain funds from calculation of general fund carryover; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 18-200.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 280, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 18-200.1), which relates to State Aid; modifying certain calculation of per pupil revenue; removing language providing for calculation of certain weighted membership; extending time period during which no penalty is to be assessed for exceeding certain general fund carryover limits; updating statutory language; updating statutory references; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: School funding

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-117, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-117. A. The general fund of any school district is hereby defined as a current expense fund and shall consist of all revenue or monies that can legally be expended within a certain specified fiscal year, but shall not be considered as including any money derived from a special building fund levy made in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, nor shall it include any monies derived from the sale

of bonds issued under the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution. All monies derived from the proceeds of the school levies made pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall be placed in the general fund provided by this section. Expenditures from the general fund shall be noncapital in nature. All monies derived from state-dedicated revenue, state-appropriated revenue unless otherwise provided for by law, and county sources shall be placed in the general fund provided for by this section. Except as provided for in subsections F, K, and L of this section, a district shall not be authorized to make capital expenditures as defined by this section from the general fund.

B. For purposes of this section, state-dedicated revenue shall be any registration or license fees, taxes, or penalties collected at the state level and distributed to common school districts. County sources shall be all funds collected by the county and distributed to common school districts but shall not include any funds derived from the building fund levy made in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution or funds derived from the sinking fund levy made in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.

C. For the purposes of this section, a capital expenditure shall be an expenditure which results in the acquisition of fixed assets or additions to fixed assets. Capital expenditures shall include, but shall not be limited to, purchases of land or existing buildings, purchases of real property, improvements of grounds and sites for construction purposes, all expenditures for construction of buildings unless authorized by the State Board of Education or the State Board of Career and Technology Education upon application to the appropriate state board pursuant to subsection F of this section, additions to buildings, remodeling of buildings if such remodeling involves changes to roof structures or load-bearing walls, professional services, salaries and expenses of architects and engineers hired or assigned to capital projects except for such services, salaries, and expenses as are applicable in preparation for a bond issue, expenditures for the initial installation and extension of service systems and built-in heat or air equipment to existing buildings, expenditures for the replacement of a building which has been destroyed, installments and lease payments on property, including interest, that have a terminal date and result in the acquisition of property, and expenditures for preliminary studies made prior to the time that authority to proceed with a

construction project is given if authority is received within the same fiscal year that the expenditure was made.

D. Noncapital expenditures shall include, but shall not be limited to, expenditures for maintenance, repair, and replacement of property and equipment, initial or additional purchases of furniture and equipment, direct expenses for maintenance of plant, including grounds, salaries for maintenance of plant, including salaries for the upkeep of grounds, and repair and replacement of building structures which do not add to existing facilities and which do not involve changes in roof structures or load-bearing walls and which are not classified as a capital expenditure by this section.

E. The State Board of Education shall adopt and amend regulations regarding the classification, definition, and financial administration of funds, accounts, and expenditures in accordance with the requirements of this section.

F. A school district shall be authorized to make capital expenditures from the general fund to defray the cost of rebuilding a school building only if a school building or facility has been destroyed by a fire or natural disaster, such as flood, tornado, or other act of God, or by an act of a public enemy of the United States or this state and monies received by the district through insurance coverage, federal reimbursement, contributions, and allocation from the State Board of Education from the State Public Common School Building Equalization Fund are insufficient to rebuild the facility. Capital expenditures from the general fund pursuant to this subsection shall be limited to an amount necessary to defray the cost of rebuilding the facility which exceeds monies received by the school district through insurance, federal reimbursement, contributions, and state allocations.

G. Schools which receive gifts ~~or,~~ donations, or state-appropriated monies for the purpose of capital expenditures or projects shall place such monies in the building fund, as provided by Section 1-118 of this title, and not in the general fund. School districts which receive gifts, grants, or donations of monies for noncapital expenditures may place the monies in the general fund, and such monies shall not be required to be used during the year in which the money was received but may accumulate from year to year ~~and shall not be considered a part of the general fund collections when calculating the general fund carryover as provided for in subsection G of Section 18-200.1 of this title.~~

H. School districts which receive monies from rental, sale, or lease of buildings, impact aid monies, or grants, gifts, or donations for capital purposes, whether from state, federal, or other sources, may place such monies in the building fund authorized by Section 1-118 of this title or the general fund authorized by this section.

I. Any construction of a building included as a capital expenditure from the general fund of a school district which is authorized and has had a contractual agreement concerning such construction executed prior to July 1, 1991, may be proceeded with and completed as authorized prior to July 1, 1991, as a capital expenditure from such general fund.

J. School districts receiving revenues authorized by Section 9B of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall be authorized to make capital expenditures from the general revenue fund no greater than the amount levied by the incentive millage.

K. Upon the approval of the State Board of Education, a school district shall be authorized to make capital expenditures as defined in this section from its general fund if:

1. A bond issue has been rejected at an election by the school district electors voting on that question within the current school year, as certified by the secretary of the county election board; or

2. The school district has voted indebtedness at any time within the preceding three (3) school years through the issuance of bonds or through approval by voters of issuance of new bonds for more than eighty-five percent (85%) of the maximum allowable pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution as shown on the school district budget filed with the State Board of Equalization for the current school year and certifications by the Attorney General prior to April 1 of the current school year. The State Board of Education shall establish the rules to administer the provisions of this subsection which shall include, but not be limited to, specification of a maximum amount of general fund monies to be used for capital expenditures, the purposes for which such funds may be expended, and the period of time in which such funds shall be encumbered.

L. Other provisions of this section notwithstanding, a school district shall be authorized to make capital expenditures from the general fund if the total assessed property valuation per average

daily attendance is less than sixty percent (60%) of the state average total assessed property valuation per average daily attendance and if, for each year in which general fund revenue is used for capital expenditures, the district has voted the five-mill building fund levy authorized in Section 10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution and has voted indebtedness through the issuance of new bonds for at least eighty-five percent (85%) within the last three (3) years of the maximum allowable pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution as shown on the school district budget filed with the State Board of Equalization for the current school year and certifications by the Attorney General prior to April 1 of the school year. Provided, the maximum amount of general fund revenue used for capital expenditures pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total yearly revenue to the general fund. ~~Said~~ Such fund may not be used for capital expenditures for more than five (5) consecutive years and may only be utilized for remodeling or construction of classroom facilities and such ancillary facilities to ~~said~~ such classrooms as may be necessary. Provided, further, the ~~State~~ Superintendent of Public Instruction shall certify in writing, prior to the expenditure of the funds for which provision is made in this subsection, that such expenditures are in compliance with the provisions of this subsection.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 18-200.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 280, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 18-200.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 18-200.1. A. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, and each school year thereafter, each school district shall have its initial allocation of State Aid calculated based on the state dedicated revenues actually collected during the preceding fiscal year, the adjusted assessed valuation of the preceding year, and the weighted average daily membership for the school district of the preceding school year. Each school district shall submit the following data based on the first nine (9) weeks, to be used in the calculation of the average daily membership of the school district:

1. Student enrollment by grade level;
2. Pupil category counts; and
3. Transportation supplement data.

On or before December 30, the State Department of Education shall determine each school district's current year allocation pursuant to subsection D of this section. The State Department of Education shall complete an audit, using procedures established by the Department, of the student enrollment by grade level data, pupil category counts, and transportation supplement data to be used in the State Aid Formula pursuant to subsection D of this section by December 1 and by January 15 shall notify each school district of the district's final State Aid allocation for the current school year. The January payment of State Aid and each subsequent payment for the remainder of the school year shall be based on the final State Aid allocation as calculated in subsection D of this section. Except for reductions made due to the assessment of penalties by the State Department of Education according to law, the January payment of State Aid and each subsequent payment for the remainder of the school year shall not decrease by an amount more than the amount that the current chargeable revenue increases for that district.

B. The State Department of Education shall retain not less than one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) of the total funds appropriated for financial support of schools, to be used to make midyear adjustments in State Aid and which shall be reflected in the final allocations. If the amount of appropriated funds, including the one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) retained, remaining after January 1 of each year is not sufficient to fully fund the final allocations, the Department shall recalculate each school district's remaining allocation pursuant to subsection D of this section using the reduced amount of appropriated funds.

C. On and after July 1, 1997, the amount of State Aid each district shall receive shall be the sum of the Foundation Aid, the Salary Incentive Aid, and the Transportation Supplement, as adjusted pursuant to the provisions of ~~subsection G of this section and~~ Section 18-112.2 of this title; provided, no district having per pupil revenue in excess of three hundred percent (300%) of the average per pupil revenue of all districts shall receive any State Aid or Supplement in State Aid.

The July calculation of per pupil revenue shall be determined by dividing the district's second preceding year's total weighted average daily membership (ADM) into the district's second preceding year's total revenues excluding federal revenue, insurance loss payments, reimbursements, recovery of overpayments and refunds, unused reserves, prior expenditures recovered, prior year surpluses, and less the amount of any transfer fees paid in that year.

The December calculation of per pupil revenue shall be determined by dividing the district's preceding year's total weighted average daily membership (ADM) into the district's preceding year's total revenues excluding federal revenue, insurance loss payments, reimbursements, recovery of overpayments and refunds, unused reserves, prior expenditures recovered, prior year surpluses, and less the amount of any transfer fees paid in that year.

D. For the 1997-98 school year, and each school year thereafter, Foundation Aid, the Transportation Supplement, and Salary Incentive Aid shall be calculated as follows:

1. Foundation Aid shall be determined by subtracting the amount of the Foundation Program Income from the cost of the Foundation Program and adding to this difference the Transportation Supplement.

a. The Foundation Program shall be a district's higher weighted average daily membership based on the first nine (9) weeks of the current school year or the preceding school year of a school district, as determined by the provisions of subsection A of Section 18-201.1 of this title and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of subsection B of Section 18-201.1 of this title, multiplied by the Base Foundation Support Level. ~~However, for the portion of weighted membership derived from nonresident, transferred pupils enrolled in online courses, the Foundation Program shall be a district's weighted average daily membership of the preceding school year or the first nine (9) weeks of the current school year, whichever is greater, as determined by the provisions of subsection A of Section 18-201.1 of this title and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of subsection B of Section 18-201.1 of this title, multiplied by the Base Foundation Support Level.~~

b. The Foundation Program Income shall be the sum of the following:

(1) ~~The~~ the adjusted assessed valuation of the current school year of the school district, minus the previous year protested ad valorem tax revenues held as prescribed in Section 2884 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, multiplied by

the mills levied pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 9 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, if applicable, as adjusted in subsection (c) of Section 8A of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution. For purposes of this subsection, the "adjusted assessed valuation of the current school year" shall be the adjusted assessed valuation on which tax revenues are collected during the current school year, ~~and~~

- (2) ~~Seventy-five~~ seventy-five percent (75%) of the amount received by the school district from the proceeds of the county levy during the preceding fiscal year, as levied pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 9 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution, ~~and~~
- (3) motor vehicle collections, ~~and~~
- (4) gross production tax, ~~and~~
- (5) state apportionment, and
- (6) R.E.A. tax.

The items listed in divisions (3), (4), (5), and (6) of this subparagraph shall consist of the amounts actually collected from such sources during the preceding fiscal year calculated on a per capita basis on the unit provided for by law for the distribution of each such revenue.

2. The Transportation Supplement shall be equal to the average daily haul times the per capita allowance times the appropriate transportation factor.

- a. The average daily haul shall be the number of children in a district who are legally transported and who live one and one-half (1 1/2) miles or more from school.
- b. The per capita allowance shall be determined using the following chart:

PER CAPITA		PER CAPITA	
DENSITY FIGURE	ALLOWANCE	DENSITY FIGURE	ALLOWANCE

3000 - .3083	\$167.00	.9334 - .9599	\$99.00
3084 - .3249	\$165.00	.9600 - .9866	\$97.00
3250 - .3416	\$163.00	.9867 - 1.1071	\$95.00
3417 - .3583	\$161.00	1.1072 - 1.3214	\$92.00
3584 - .3749	\$158.00	1.3215 - 1.5357	\$90.00
3750 - .3916	\$156.00	1.5358 - 1.7499	\$88.00
3917 - .4083	\$154.00	1.7500 - 1.9642	\$86.00
4084 - .4249	\$152.00	1.9643 - 2.1785	\$84.00
4250 - .4416	\$150.00	2.1786 - 2.3928	\$81.00
4417 - .4583	\$147.00	2.3929 - 2.6249	\$79.00
4584 - .4749	\$145.00	2.6250 - 2.8749	\$77.00
4750 - .4916	\$143.00	2.8750 - 3.1249	\$75.00
4917 - .5083	\$141.00	3.1250 - 3.3749	\$73.00
5084 - .5249	\$139.00	3.3750 - 3.6666	\$70.00
5250 - .5416	\$136.00	3.6667 - 3.9999	\$68.00
5417 - .5583	\$134.00	4.0000 - 4.3333	\$66.00
5584 - .5749	\$132.00	4.3334 - 4.6666	\$64.00
5750 - .5916	\$130.00	4.6667 - 4.9999	\$62.00
5917 - .6133	\$128.00	5.0000 - 5.5000	\$59.00
6134 - .6399	\$125.00	5.5001 - 6.0000	\$57.00
6400 - .6666	\$123.00	6.0001 - 6.5000	\$55.00
6667 - .6933	\$121.00	6.5001 - 7.0000	\$53.00

6934 - .7199	\$119.00	7.0001 - 7.3333	\$51.00
7200 - .7466	\$117.00	7.3334 - 7.6667	\$48.00
7467 - .7733	\$114.00	7.6668 - 8.0000	\$46.00
7734 - .7999	\$112.00	8.0001 - 8.3333	\$44.00
8000 - .8266	\$110.00	8.3334 - 8.6667	\$42.00
8267 - .8533	\$108.00	8.6668 - 9.0000	\$40.00
8534 - .8799	\$106.00	9.0001 - 9.3333	\$37.00
8800 - .9066	\$103.00	9.3334 - 9.6667	\$35.00
9067 - .9333	\$101.00	9.6668 or more	\$33.00

c. The formula transportation factor shall be 2.0.

3. Salary Incentive Aid shall be determined as follows:

- a. Multiply the Incentive Aid guarantee by the district's higher weighted average daily membership based on the first nine (9) weeks of the current school year or the preceding school year of a school district, as determined by the provisions of subsection A of Section 18-201.1 of this title and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of subsection B of Section 18-201.1 of this title.
- b. Divide the district's adjusted assessed valuation of the current school year minus the previous year's protested ad valorem tax revenues held as prescribed in Section 2884 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, by one thousand (1,000) and subtract the quotient from the product of subparagraph a of this paragraph. The remainder shall not be less than zero (0).
- c. Multiply the number of mills levied for general fund purposes above the fifteen (15) mills required to support Foundation Aid pursuant to division (1) of subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of this subsection, not including the county four-mill levy, by the remainder

of subparagraph b of this paragraph. The product shall be the Salary Incentive Aid of the district.

E. By June 30, 1998, the State Department of Education shall develop and the Department and all school districts shall have implemented a student identification system which is consistent with the provisions of subsections C D and D E of Section 3111 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The student identification system shall be used specifically for the purpose of reporting enrollment data by school sites and by school districts, the administration of the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act, the collection of appropriate and necessary data pursuant to the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program, determining student enrollment, establishing a student mobility rate, allocation of the State Aid Formula, and midyear adjustments in funding for student growth. This enrollment data shall be submitted to the State Department of Education in accordance with rules promulgated by the State Board of Education. Funding for the development, implementation, personnel training, and maintenance of the student identification system shall be set out in a separate line item in the allocation section of the appropriation bill for the State Board of Education for each year.

F. 1. In the event that ad valorem taxes of a school district are determined to be uncollectible because of bankruptcy, clerical error, or a successful tax protest, and the amount of such taxes deemed uncollectible exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or an amount greater than twenty-five percent (25%) of ad valorem taxes per tax year, or the valuation of a district is lowered by order of the State Board of Equalization, the school district's State Aid, for the school year that such ad valorem taxes are calculated in the State Aid Formula, shall be determined by subtracting the net assessed valuation of the property upon which taxes were deemed uncollectible from the assessed valuation of the school district and the state. Upon request of the local board of education, it shall be the duty of the county assessor to certify to the Director of Finance of the State Department of Education the net assessed valuation of the property upon which taxes were determined uncollectible.

2. In the event that the amount of funds a school district receives for reimbursement from the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund is less than the amount of funds claimed for reimbursement by the school district due to insufficiency of funds as provided in Section 193 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes, then the school district's assessed valuation for the school year that such ad valorem

reimbursement is calculated in the State Aid Formula shall be adjusted accordingly.

G. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 18-112.2 of this title, a school district shall have its State Aid reduced by an amount equal to the amount of carryover in the general fund of the district as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year, that is in excess of the following standards for two (2) consecutive years:

Total Amount of General Fund Collections, Excluding Previous Year Cash Surplus as of June 30	Amount of General Fund Balance Allowable
Less than \$1,000,000	48%
\$1,000,000 - \$2,999,999	42%
\$3,000,000 - \$3,999,999	36%
\$4,000,000 - \$4,999,999	30%
\$5,000,000 - \$5,999,999	24%
\$6,000,000 - \$7,999,999	22%
\$8,000,000 - \$9,999,999	19%
\$10,000,000 or more	17%

2. By February 1 the State Department of Education shall send by certified mail, with return receipt requested, to each school district superintendent, auditor, and regional accreditation officer a notice of and calculation sheet reflecting the general fund balance penalty to be assessed against that school district. Calculation of the general fund balance penalty shall not include federal revenue. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of this written notice the school district shall submit to the Department a written reply either accepting or protesting the penalty to be assessed against the district. If protesting, the school district shall submit with its reply the reasons for rejecting the calculations and documentation supporting those reasons. The Department shall review

all school district penalty protest documentation and notify each district by March 15 of its finding and the final penalty to be assessed to each district. General fund balance penalties shall be assessed to all school districts by April 1.

3. Any school district which receives proceeds from a tax settlement or a Federal Emergency Management Agency settlement during the last two (2) months of the preceding fiscal year shall be exempt from the penalties assessed in this subsection, if the penalty would occur solely as a result of receiving funds from the tax settlement.

4. Any school district which receives an increase in State Aid because of a change in Foundation and/or Salary Incentive Aid factors during the last two (2) months of the preceding fiscal year shall be exempt from the penalties assessed in this subsection, if the penalty would occur solely as a result of receiving funds from the increase in State Aid.

5. If a school district does not receive Foundation and/or Salary Incentive Aid during the preceding fiscal year, the State Board of Education may waive the penalty assessed in this subsection if the penalty would result in a loss of more than forty percent (40%) of the remaining State Aid to be allocated to the school district between April 1 and the remainder of the school year and if the Board determines the penalty will cause the school district not to meet remaining financial obligations.

6. Any school district which receives gross production revenue apportionment during the 2002-2003 school year or in any subsequent school year that is greater than the gross production revenue apportionment of the preceding school year shall be exempt from the penalty assessed in this subsection, if the penalty would occur solely as a result of the gross production revenue apportionment, as determined by the State Board of Education.

7. Beginning July 1, 2003, school districts that participate in consolidation or annexation pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma School Consolidation and Annexation Act shall be exempt from the penalty assessed in this subsection for the school year in which the consolidation or annexation occurs and for the next three (3) fiscal years.

8. Any school district which receives proceeds from a sales tax levied by a municipality pursuant to Section 22-159 of Title 11 of

the Oklahoma Statutes or proceeds from a sales tax levied by a county pursuant to Section 1370 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes during the 2003-2004 school year or the 2004-2005 school year shall be exempt from the penalties assessed in this subsection, if the penalty would occur solely as a result of receiving funds from the sales tax levy.

9. Any school district which has an amount of carryover in the general fund of the district in excess of the limits established in paragraph 1 of this subsection during the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2020, July 1, 2021, July 1, 2022, ~~and~~ July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024, shall not be assessed a general fund balance penalty as provided for in this subsection.

10. For purposes of calculating the general fund balance penalty, the terms "carryover" and "general fund balance" shall not include federal revenue.

H. In order to provide startup funds for the implementation of early childhood programs, State Aid may be advanced to school districts that initially start early childhood instruction at a school site. School districts that desire such advanced funding shall make application to the State Department of Education no later than September 15 of each year and advanced funding shall be awarded to the approved districts no later than October 30. The advanced funding shall not exceed the per pupil amount of State Aid as calculated in subsection D of this section per anticipated Head Start eligible student. The total amount of advanced funding shall be proportionately reduced from the monthly payments of the district's State Aid payments during the last six (6) months of the same fiscal year.

I. 1. Beginning July 1, 1996, the Oklahoma Tax Commission, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, shall report monthly to the State Department of Education the monthly apportionment of the following information:

- a. the assessed valuation of property,
- b. motor vehicle collections,
- c. R.E.A. tax collected, and
- d. gross productions tax collected.

2. Beginning July 1, 1997, the State Auditor and Inspector's Office, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, shall report monthly to the State Department of Education the monthly apportionment of the proceeds of the county levy.

3. Beginning July 1, 1996, the Commissioners of the Land Office, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, shall report monthly to the State Department of Education the monthly apportionment of state apportionment.

4. Beginning July 1, 1997, the county treasurers' offices, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, shall report monthly to the State Department of Education the ad valorem tax protest amounts for each county.

5. The information reported by the Tax Commission, the State Auditor and Inspector's Office, the county treasurers' offices, and the Commissioners of the Land Office, pursuant to this subsection shall be reported by a school district on forms developed by the State Department of Education.

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

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.