

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1006

By: West (Rick), Talley, and
Bashore of the House

and

Murdock of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-111, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 153, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 1-111), which relates to school days; requiring students be given excused absences for participating in approved 4-H activities; subjecting excused absences to certain policies; directing 4-H educator to provide proof of participation upon request; requiring student be given opportunity to make up missed schoolwork; prohibiting class grades from being adversely affected; and providing exception for certain absences.

SUBJECT: Schools

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-111, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 153, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 1-111), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-111. A. Except as otherwise provided for by law, a school day shall consist of not less than six (6) hours devoted to school activities. A district board of education may elect to extend the length of one (1) or more school days to more than six (6) hours and reduce the number of school days as long as the total amount of classroom instruction time is not less than one thousand eighty (1,080) hours per year as required pursuant to Section 1-109 of this title.

B. A school day for nursery, early childhood education, kindergarten, and alternative education programs shall be as otherwise defined by law or as defined by the State Board of Education. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, not more than one (1) school day shall be counted for attendance purposes in any twenty-four-hour period. Two (2) school days, each consisting of not less than six (6) hours, may be counted for attendance purposes in any twenty-four-hour period only if one of the school days is for the purpose of parent-teacher conferences held as provided for in Section 1-109 of this title.

C. ~~Students~~ Except as provided in subsection D of this section, students absent from school in which they are regularly enrolled may be considered as being in attendance if the reason for such absence is to participate in scheduled school activities under the direction and supervision of a regular member of the faculty or to participate in an online course approved by the district board of education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to provide for the implementation of supplemental online courses which shall include, but not be limited to, provisions addressing the following:

1. Criteria for student admissions eligibility;
2. A student admission process administered through the district of residence, which provides the ability for the student to enroll in individual courses;
3. A process by which students are not denied the opportunity to enroll in educationally appropriate courses by school districts. For the purposes of this section, "educationally appropriate" means any instruction that is not substantially a repeat of a course or portion of a course that the student has successfully completed, regardless of the grade of the student, and regardless of whether a course is similar to or identical to the instruction that is currently offered in the school district;
4. Creation of a system which provides ongoing enrollment access for students throughout the school year;
5. A grace period of fifteen (15) calendar days from the first day of an online course for student withdrawal from an online course without academic penalty;

6. Mastery of competencies for course completion rather than Carnegie units;

7. Student participation in extracurricular activities in accordance with school district eligibility rules and policies and any rules and policies of a private organization or association which provides the coordination, supervision, and regulation of the interscholastic activities and contests of schools;

8. Parent authorization for release of state test results to online course providers, on a form developed by the State Department of Education; and

9. A review process to identify and certify online course providers and a uniform payment processing system.

D. Except as provided in paragraph 3 of this subsection, students absent from school in which they are regularly enrolled shall be given an excused absence if the reason for such absence is to participate in scheduled 4-H activities or programs as approved by the county 4-H educator. The number of excused absences allowed pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the attendance policy of the school district board of education.

1. Upon request from a school principal or attendance officer, a 4-H educator shall provide documentation as proof of student participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H.

2. Students shall be given the opportunity to make up any schoolwork missed while they are participating in activities or programs sponsored by 4-H. Students shall not have their class grades adversely affected for lack of attendance or participation due to their participation in activities or programs sponsored by 4-H.

3. A school principal or his or her designee shall not credit a student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H with an excused absence if the participation occurs during:

a. the schedule established by the State Board of Education for the administration of statewide student assessments, or

b. any period of time for which the student has been disciplined, suspended, or expelled, if the terms of

punishment would preclude the student from participating in an educational field trip or extracurricular activity.

E. Each district board of education shall adopt policies and procedures that conform to rules for online courses as adopted by the State Board. Such policies shall include criteria for approval of the course, the appropriateness of the course for a particular student, authorization for full-time students to enroll in online courses, and establishing fees or charges. No district shall be liable for payment of any fees or charges for any online course for a student who has not complied with the district's policies and procedures. School districts shall not deny students the opportunity to enroll in educationally appropriate courses and shall provide an admissions process which includes input from the student, the parent or legal guardian of the student, and school faculty.

~~E.~~ F. Districts shall require students enrolled in online courses to participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act. Students participating in online courses from a remote site will be responsible for providing their own equipment and Internet access, unless the district chooses to provide the equipment. Credit may not be granted for such courses except upon approval of the State Board of Education and the district board of education.

~~F.~~ G. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a student who transfers from the district in which the student resides to another school district pursuant to the Education Open Transfer Act from enrolling in a full-time virtual education program offered by the receiving school district. A student who enrolls pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of Section 8-103.2 of this title. The board of education of a school district with a full-time virtual education program shall adopt a policy to determine the number of transfer students the program has the capacity to accept in each grade level, as provided for in Section 8-101.2 of this title.

~~G.~~ H. Districts may provide students with opportunities for blended instruction. "Blended instruction" shall mean a combination of brick-and-mortar learning and virtual learning environments that includes elements of a student's control over place, pace, and path of learning. A student in blended instruction may work on virtual courses at home or at school in a blended flex lab but shall participate in at least one unit or set of competencies as defined by Section 11-103.6 of this title at a physical school building in a

traditional classroom setting which is the academic equivalent of one (1) hour per day for each instructional day in the school year as defined by Section 1-109 of this title.

H. I. The school day for kindergarten may consist of six (6) hours devoted to school activities.

Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of March, 2023.

Phyllis Klett
Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 19th day of March, 2024.

Brent Howard
Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 25th
day of March, 20 24, at 2:26 o'clock P M.
By: *Levi Skelton*

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 26th
day of March, 20 24, at 1:53 o'clock P M.

[Signature]
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 26th
day of March, 20 24, at 2:27 o'clock P M.
By: *[Signature]*