



JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Janet Barresi
DATE: March 29, 2012
SUBJECT: Statutory Waiver Concerning Cooperative Agreements
for Alternative Education Programs

The following schools are requesting a statutory waiver of 70 O.S. § 1210.568, which requires them to enter into a cooperative agreement with another school district if enrollment in their alternative education program is less than ten (10) students. Approval is recommended.

District	County	Duration of Waiver (Years)
Ringling Public Schools	Jefferson (4)*	1

* The number in the County category represents the Congressional District.
See the attached map.

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Attachments

Section 915. Alternative Education Programs - Statewide System.

A. Beginning with the first semester of the 1996-1997 school year, the State Board of Education shall implement a statewide system of alternative education programs which shall be phased-in within seven (7) years. The statewide system shall include but not be limited to Alternative Approaches grant programs, funded pursuant to Section 1210.561 of this title, and alternative academies or alternative programs implemented pursuant to this section.

B. Beginning with the first semester of the 2002-2003 school year, all school districts of this state shall provide alternative education programs that conform to the requirements of statutes and rules applicable to alternative education. A program shall:

1. Allow class sizes and student/teacher ratios which are conducive to effective learning for at-risk students;
2. Incorporate appropriate structure, curriculum, and interaction and reinforcement strategies designed to provide effective instruction;
3. Include an intake and screening process to determine eligibility of students;
4. Demonstrate that teaching faculty are appropriately licensed or certified teachers;
5. Demonstrate that teaching faculty have been selected on the basis of a record of successful work with at-risk students or personal and educational factors that qualify them for work with at-risk students;
6. Reflect appropriate collaborative efforts with state agencies and local agencies serving youth;
7. Provide courses that meet the academic curricula standards adopted by the State Board of Education and additional remedial courses;
8. Offer individualized instruction;
9. State clear and measurable program goals and objectives;
10. Include counseling and social services components with the provision that providers of services are not required to be certified as school counselors;
11. Require a plan leading to graduation be developed for each student in the program which will allow the student to participate in graduation exercises for the school district after meeting the requirements of the school district as specified in the individual graduation plan for that student; provided, for students who enter the ninth grade in or prior to the 2007-08 school year, the plan shall specifically address whether the student is required to meet the graduation requirements established in Section 11-103.6 of this title;
12. Offer life skills instruction;
13. Provide opportunities for arts education to students, including Artists in Residence programs coordinated with the Oklahoma Arts Council;
14. Provide a proposed annual budget;
15. Include an evaluation component including an annual written self-evaluation;
16. Be appropriately designed to serve middle school, junior high school and secondary school students in grades six through twelve who are most at risk of not completing a high school education for a reason other than that identified in Section 13-101 of this title; and
17. Allow students in the alternative education program, who otherwise meet all of the participation requirements, to participate in vocational programs and extracurricular activities, including but not limited to athletics, band, and clubs.

C. The alternative education program of a school district shall be operational and serving students by September 15 of each school year.

D. Each alternative education program of a school district shall receive funding based on the combined number of dropouts and students within the district who have been referred to a county juvenile service unit, a county juvenile bureau or who have been committed to the custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs. Each alternative education program shall receive incentive funding as follows:

1. For the first year of operation, One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per student;

2. For the second year of operation, Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) per student; and
3. For the third year of operation and each year thereafter, Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) per student.

Statewide alternative education funding shall not be used to supplant existing school district resources or to support programs that do not meet all the criteria for the statewide alternative education system. No alternative education program shall receive less than a total of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per school year.

E. By September 15 of each school year, all statewide alternative education funds received and expended for students participating in an alternative education program shall be reported to the State Department of Education by major object codes and by program classifications pursuant to the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 5-135 of this title.

F. Elementary school districts, as defined in Section 5-103 of this title, may request a waiver from the State Board of Education from the requirements of this section to implement and provide an alternative education program. Any elementary school district that has not received funding pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of this section shall be automatically granted a waiver. If a school district is granted a waiver, no statewide alternative education funding shall be allocated to the district.

G. 1. The State Board of Education shall contract for technical assistance for operation of an Alternative Education Technical Assistance Center. The technical assistance provider shall be an entity located in Oklahoma that has been officially recognized by the United States Department of Education to assess and facilitate dissemination of validated educational programs in Oklahoma. The technical assistance provider shall have priority, if its operations are deemed satisfactory by the State Board of Education and if funds are available, for annual renewal of the contract.

2. The duties of the technical assistance provider shall include, but shall not be limited to:
 - a. providing initial and ongoing training of personnel who will educate at-risk populations through alternative education programs,
 - b. providing technical assistance to school districts to enhance the probability of success of their alternative education programs,
 - c. evaluating state-funded alternative education programs,
 - d. reporting to the State Board of Education the evaluation results of state-funded alternative education programs, and
 - e. providing in-depth program analysis and evaluation of state-funded alternative education programs.

3. The State Board of Education shall not provide funding to an alternative education program that does not receive a recommendation for continued funding in the evaluation provided for in this subsection. Provided, any school district not receiving such a recommendation for continued funding may request a hearing before the Board with a review of the evaluation prior to the Board's final determination.

H. All alternative education programs shall be subject to statutes and rules applicable to alternative education, including any exemptions from statutory or regulatory requirements authorized by statutes or rule.

I. An alternative education program may be offered by an individual school district or may be offered jointly by school districts that have formed interlocal cooperative agreements pursuant to Section 5-117b of this title. Any school district submitting a plan for an alternative education program serving fewer than ten students shall enter into a cooperative agreement with another school district to jointly provide the program unless the program has been granted a waiver from this requirement by the State Board of Education.

J. Any materials or equipment purchased by a school district with revenue received for students participating in an alternative education program shall be used only in or directly for the alternative education program offered by the district or any subsequent alternative education program offered to students enrolled in that district. Such materials and equipment shall be made available exclusively to alternative education students during the hours that the alternative education program is operating; provided, the material or equipment may be used for other purposes when the alternative education program is not operating.

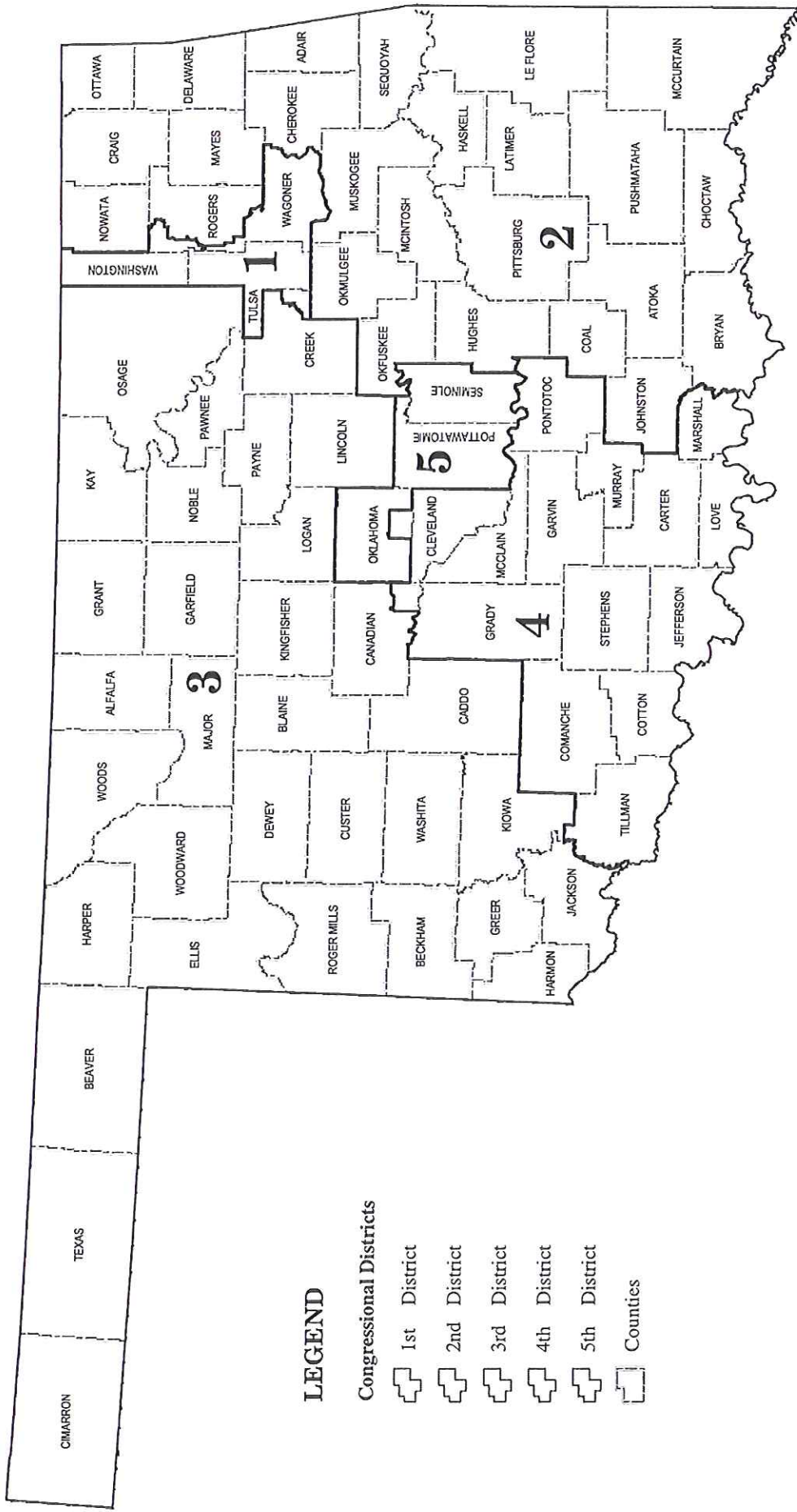
K. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in subsection M of this section and contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds designated for such purpose, all school districts in the state providing alternative education programs as required in subsection B of this section shall expand the programs to include middle-school-grade students. The program shall conform to the requirements of subsection B of this section.

L. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in subsection M of this section and contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds designated for such purpose, each urban school district identified by the State Department of Education as having a high population of elementary grade students who are at-risk and in need of alternative education shall provide elementary level alternative education programs. The State Department of Education shall establish requirements for the programs. For purposes of this section, "urban school district" means a school district with an average daily membership of thirty thousand (30,000) or more.

M. Implementation of subsections K and L of this section shall be delayed until the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for the 1998-99 school year or any school year thereafter for Oklahoma, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics annually in the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches at least ninety percent (90%) of the regional average expenditure for that same year, and funds are provided. For purposes of this subsection, the regional average expenditure shall consist of the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for each of the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of each year, the State Board of Education shall report whether or not the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached based on information reported annually in the Digest of Education Statistics by the National Center for Education Statistics. Subsections K and L of this section shall be implemented on July 1 after the first January 1 report verifies that the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached and funds have been provided for the specific purposes of this section.

(70-1210.568)

OKLAHOMA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS 2002 - 2010 ELECTIONS



LEGEND

Congressional Districts

- 1st District
- 2nd District
- 3rd District
- 4th District
- 5th District
- Counties





Ringling Public Schools

P.O. Box 1010
Ringling, Oklahoma 73456
Telephone (580) 662-2385
Fax (580) 662-2683

RECEIVED

FEB 15 2012

ACCREDITATION
STATE DEPT OF EDUCATION

January 13, 2012

Ms. Regina Rayburn
Accreditation Office
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599

Dear Ms. Rayburn,

Ringling Public Schools is applying for a School Site Statutory Waiver for the 2011-2012 school year regarding our alternative program.

Our Alternative Education program is currently serving under the mandatory ten (10) students per year and we are requesting a waiver to continue our program and its funding. The current program is a vital part of our school system and is helping in credit recovery and students who are struggling through the regular classroom setting.

There are no cooperatives in our area that we can be a part of and we desperately need the program to help our students achieve to the best of their abilities. The application for a waiver will be presented at the February Board of Education Meeting and will be forwarded on to you after the approval of the plan.

Thank you for your consideration in this process.

Sincerely,

Rick Hatfield
Ringling Public Schools
Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent
Rick Hatfield

Principals
Tracy Gandy, High School Principal
Barry Benson, Elementary School/Middle School Principal

Board of Education
Jay Grace, President
Joe Taylor, Vice President
Jimmy Snodgrass, Clerk
Sharri Hiller, Deputy Clerk
Brian McGahey, Member

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ACCREDITATION DIVISION
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 210
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599
(405) 521-3333

RECEIVED

FEB 15 2012

ACCREDITATION
STATE DEPT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL SITE STATUTORY WAIVER/EXEMPTION APPLICATION
FOR 20 11 - 20 12 SCHOOL YEAR

Name of Site(s): Ringling High School

Name of School District: Ringling Public Schools

Signature of Principal(s):* _____ Date 1-11-12

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Signature of Superintendent:* _____

County Name: Jefferson

SDE USE ONLY

PROJECT YEARS

1 of 1

ENROLLMENT

High School 120

Jr./Middle High 104

Elementary 232

District Total 456

Date Received _____

70 O.S. _____

I hereby certify that this deregulation application was approved by our
local board of education at the meeting on February 13, 2012.

Signature of Board President* _____

Notary: Aubonah Benson

Date: 2-13-2012 My Commission Expires: 3-14-2015

1. **Statement of the Statute to be Waived:** (specify statutory citation)

70 O.S. 1210.568

Minimum of 10 students in Alternative School Setting for the year.

*Original signatures are required.

A. A description of the educational benefits to be derived (i.e., describe specific benefits to learning/achievement).

Students who are enrolled in our alternative program are able to make up lost credits and or succeed when the conventional classroom setting has failed. Our Alternative program has always allowed 1-2 more students to graduate from school that would not have done so due to problems and conflicts in a regular setting.

B. A definition of the standards of the plan (i.e., alternate strategies proposed).

Students are allowed to work at their own pace to complete the program and still have the guidance of a certified teacher and counselor to help encourage and guide them. More one on one counseling is provided and career goals and objectives become more real.

C. Development of definitive work products, such as site improvement plans and progress reports (i.e., describe the expected student performance levels to be demonstrated or results of the Statutory Waiver).

Students receive more one on one guidance and help to make up and/or excel in the classroom with less distractions and more rigor in the classwork.

D. Demonstration of collaboration of teachers, administrators, higher education representatives, students, parents/families, and the community.

Additional help from current staff of the regular high school/Jr. High School is available and staff collaborate with the Alternative teacher and students to help make curriculum more meaningful and beneficial to Alternative Students.

E. Development and the use of an assessment mechanism to determine progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan (i.e., method of evaluation).

As the student increases and/or "catches up", they may elect to go back to the regular classroom and graduate with their class or they may elect to remain in the Alternative setting to avoid distractions and obstacles that they encountered and caused them to get behind.

F. Development of an in-service training plan to be provided to personnel at the site who will participate in the projects.

Personnel have attended and attend alternative education professional development and work closely with local social workers from our county to make sure they understand and utilize knowledge and materials that benefit our Alternative Students.

G. Report on the results of the plan to the State Board of Education and provision of appropriate technical assistance to other school districts and the State Department of Education as required (i.e., describe how you will report to the State Board of Education annually).

End of year reports for the Alternative Education Programs will be filed and student successes and failures noted. Graduation rates and other testing (EOI) information will be included to meet AYP for the school and district.

H. Explanation of how the plan will affect other schools, programs or sites in the district.

We have only one high school and Jr. High School. This will keep our students in school and decrease our dropout rate.

I. Period of public review on the proposed plan.

January 10-27, 2012

J. Notification and comments from the district bargaining agent, or if no bargaining agent exists, the teachers directly affected.

No bargaining agent exist. Local Staff and our community are in favor of continuing the program.

K. All comments, recommendations and objections made by the bargaining agent and others to the local board of education shall be forwarded to the State Board of Education for consideration prior to review of the plan.

As of February 13, 2012, no comments, recommendations, or objections have been filed with the district.

L. Timeline for implementing the Statutory Waiver, specifying the period requested.

August 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012