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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Janet Barresi
DATE: March 25, 2014
SUBJECT: Deregulation for an Abbreviated School Day for Alternative Education

The following schools are requesting deregulation from OAC 210:35-29-2 and OAC 210:35-3-46 for the 2014-2015 school year in order to have an Abbreviated School Day for Alternative Education. Approval is recommended.

District	County	Alternative Means	Request Years
Wewoka	Seminole*(5)	An instructional day will be four hours and thirty minutes per day, four evenings per week	6

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

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Attachment

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ACADEMIES AND PROGRAMS

210:35-29-2. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Subchapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Alternative Education" means an educational process incorporating appropriate structure, curriculum, interaction, and reinforcement strategies to stimulate learning with students who have not utilized their capacity to do so within traditional educational settings.

"Abbreviated school day" means, for purposes of an alternative education program approved by the State Board of Education, a school day which consists of not less than four (4) hours and 12 minutes per day devoted to school activities for the locally approved 180-day school calendar.

2010-2011 Standards for Accreditation of Oklahoma Schools

STANDARD III

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

210:35-3-41. Statement of the standard

The school is organized to ensure the achievement of its goals. The working relationships among the local board, superintendent, principal, and staff are such as to facilitate the successful functioning of all phases of the school's program. The principal of the school has the autonomy and authority to provide the leadership needed to accomplish the goals of the school. The school is provided with sufficient professional and service personnel to ensure effective operation of all phases of the school's program. The school is organized in a manner that encourages new and innovative ideas designed to improve the program and to help the school adapt to changing conditions. (92)

210:35-3-46. Administrative and supervisory services

- (a) The school site shall be part of a system employing a full-time superintendent. *No board of a school district having average daily membership (ADM) of fewer than 500 students shall be prohibited from allowing a superintendent with the appropriate certificate to serve simultaneously as a principal. [70 O.S. § 5-106]* If a vacancy occurs in the superintendency during the course of the school year, a certified replacement must be employed within 45 school days.
- (b) It shall further be the responsibility of the local board, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, to employ an administrative head to be known as a principal for each of the schools within the district. Private schools shall employ a full-time principal/headmaster. An elementary district shall employ a full-time elementary superintendent. With the exception of requirements for certification, the term superintendent as used in these standards shall mean an elementary school superintendent, headmaster, or superintendent. Full-time is defined as employed full time, and therefore allows these administrators to teach.
- (c) Instructional leadership shall be the chief function of the school's principal. The principal shall be responsible for the improvement of instruction and be given the authority and resources needed to accomplish this goal. The principal shall help clarify the goals of the school, help obtain resources for it, coordinate its various activities, and promote its continuous evaluation to determine improvements needed.
- (d) Lines of administrative and supervisory authority between the central office staff and the principal shall be defined clearly and shall give the principal responsibility for initiating appropriate changes to meet the needs of the students.
- (e) The principal shall be involved in the selection, assessment, evaluation, retention, and promotion of all personnel assigned to the school.
 - (1) *All certified administrative personnel designated by a local board to conduct evaluations shall be required to participate in training conducted by the State Department of Education prior to evaluating. [70 O.S. § 6-101.10]*
 - (2) *No teacher shall be dismissed during the term of a contract or refused reemployment except at an official meeting of the board of education. The reemployment or*

2010-2011 Standards for Accreditation of Oklahoma Schools

dismissal of teachers shall be in accordance with the school laws of Oklahoma. [70 O.S. § 6-101.20 through 101.30]

- (f) While working with faculty, staff, or students in the school, central office and other supplementary personnel shall coordinate their activities through the principal.
- (g) The principal shall have the responsibility and the authority for the administration of the non-instructional programs in the school.
- (h) The local board shall adopt a school calendar and school day consistent with statutory requirements in Oklahoma.
 - (1) *The standard school year shall consist of not less than 180 days; or,*
 - (2) *For not less than one thousand eighty (1080) hours each school year, if a district board of education adopts a school-hours policy and notifies the State Board of Education prior to September 15 of the applicable school year.*
 - (3) *Not more than thirty (30) hours each school year may be used for attendance of professional meetings and teachers may be paid for a length of term in excess thereof, under conditions hereinafter outlined. Subject to district board of education policy or collective bargaining agreement, additional professional leave days may be granted for individual teachers to attend or participate in professional meetings, staff development training, or National Board certification portfolio development as provided for in Section 6-204.2 of this title. [70 O.S. § 1-109]*
 - (4) *The standard school day shall consist of not less than 6 hours devoted to school activities, exclusive of lunch, with the exception of nursery, early childhood education kindergarten, and alternative education. [70 O.S. § 1-111]*
 - (5) *The early childhood school day shall consist of not less than two and one-half hours per session.*
 - (6) *The kindergarten school day shall consist of not less than two and one-half hours per day. The requirement to attend kindergarten may be satisfied by attendance in either a half-day or full-day program. Membership in a kindergarten for either two and one-half (2 1/2) hours or six (6) hours per school day shall be counted as one (1) day for average daily membership purposes. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, it shall be the duty of every school district in this state to provide and offer a full six-hour day of kindergarten free of tuition for every child residing in the district who attains the age of five (5) years on or before the first day of September during the school year kindergarten is offered, provided that this duty may be satisfied by intra-district transfer to a school offering full-day kindergarten, by transferring kindergarten children to other school districts which will accept them and can provide kindergarten for such children, or by contracting for classroom space with a licensed public or licensed private child care provider based on the selection criteria established by the district. [70 O.S. § 18-108]*
 - (7) *A school district board of education may adopt and implement an extended day schedule for grades nine through twelve. All of the following conditions must be met:
 - (A) *The annual number of hours of instruction must equal or exceed 1,080 hours which is equivalent to 180 days of instruction.*
 - (B) *Only one day per week shall consist of not less than five hours of academic instruction in a regular classroom setting.**

2010-2011 Standards for Accreditation of Oklahoma Schools

- (C) The district must hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of an extended day schedule.
 - (D) The district must document the impact on student achievement as determined by the academic performance index score and any other relevant factors that are a result of the implementation of an extended day schedule.
 - (E) The district must provide an annual report to the State Board of Education on the result of the extended day schedule and the impact on student achievement. [70 O.S. § 1-109]
- (i) If, because of emergency situations, school has been missed more than fifteen (15) days, the State Board of Education will consider forgiving a portion of those days or in rare instances all days missed, on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions to the fifteen (15) day minimum will be made at the recommendation of the State Superintendent and forgiveness will be considered by the State Board of Education on a case-by-case basis.
 - (j) If a school district determines that it is necessary to deviate from the required 6-hour school day because of severe weather conditions or fire, the superintendent should report this, in writing, to the State Department of Education, Accreditation Section, within 72 hours. Any loss of school time shall require the superintendent to report the amount of time lost and the procedures to be used to make up the lost time.
 - (k) *Schools shall obtain permission from the State Board of Education before conducting Saturday classes to complete a standard school term including professional days. [70 O.S. § 1-112]* (09)

210:10-1-4. Length of term

- (a) The minimum length of term will be ten (10) months (180 days actually taught). Provided not to exceed five (5) days of 180 days required may be used for attendance of professional meetings. Where professional days are taken, they shall be so recorded in the register of attendance in a like manner as holidays are recorded. The legal aggregate days attendance will be divided by days actually taught to obtain the legal average daily attendance. Any school district holding less than a full term will have its state aid reduced proportionately. No district may have less than a full term of school unless conditions over which it has no control exist that would prevent the district holding a full term. In cases where sites within a district have different length terms the average daily membership (ADM) and average daily attendance (ADA) shall be calculated for each site separately.

210:35-3-47. School reports and records

Well delineated policies and procedures for records and reports shall be developed and kept current.

- (1) Records and reports needed for effective planning, operation, evaluation, and reporting shall be kept relative to the following components of the educational program:
 - (A) Administrative operations
 - (B) Curriculum
 - (C) Guidance
 - (D) Health services

