

§10-640. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act".

Added by Laws 2003, c. 121, § 1, emerg. eff. April 22, 2003.

§10-640.1. Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board.

A. There is hereby re-created until July 1, 2017, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board. The Board shall promote school readiness supporting community-based efforts to increase the number of children who are ready to succeed by the time they enter school. The Board shall additionally serve as the state's Early Childhood Advisory Council and fulfill the responsibilities described in the Head Start Act of 2007 (PL 110-134, Section 642B). The Board shall consist of representatives from the private and public sectors as follows:

1. Fifteen private sector representatives appointed by the Governor from a list submitted by an existing private-sector school readiness initiative that includes in its focus community mobilization and public engagement activities to include:

- a. two parents of children eight (8) years of age or younger, and
- b. one representative of licensed child care providers;

2. One representative of the licensed child care industry appointed by the Governor from a list submitted by an association representing the licensed child care industry in this state;

3. One representative of a state association of federally funded early childhood programs appointed by the Governor; and

4. To ensure that existing resources are being utilized effectively, fifteen public sector representatives or their designees as follows:

- a. State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
- b. State Commissioner of Health,
- c. Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services,
- d. Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce,
- e. Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries,
- f. Director of the Department of Human Services,
- g. Administrator of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority,
- h. Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth,
- i. Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation Services,

- j. Executive Director of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority,
- k. Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education,
- l. Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
- m. Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for education agencies,
- n. Dean of the College of Human Environmental Sciences, Oklahoma State University, and
- o. State Director of Head Start Collaboration.

B. Members appointed by the Governor shall serve terms of four (4) years; provided, of those members initially appointed to the Board, eight members shall be appointed for two-year terms, beginning September 1, 2003, and seven members shall be appointed for four-year terms, beginning September 1, 2003, as designated by the Governor. The member appointed pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section shall be appointed for an initial term to end on August 31, 2007. The member appointed pursuant to paragraph 3 of subsection A of this section shall be appointed for an initial term to end on August 31, 2009. Appointed members shall continue in office until a successor is appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall fill all vacancies in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

C. The Director of the Department of Human Services shall convene an organizational meeting of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board prior to November 1, 2003, at which time members of the Board shall elect a chair, a vice-chair, and other officers as needed. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

D. Members of the Board shall receive no compensation for serving on the Board but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. State agency officers and employees who are members of the Board shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

2. Remaining members shall be reimbursed by the Board from any funds received by the Board for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. Members of the Board shall be exempt from the dual-office-holding provisions of Section 6 of Title 51 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

Added by Laws 2003, c. 121, § 3, emerg. eff. April 22, 2003.
Amended by Laws 2004, c. 66, § 1, emerg. eff. April 7, 2004;

Laws 2007, c. 111, § 1, emerg. eff. May 8, 2007; Laws 2009, c. 15, § 1; Laws 2010, c. 284, § 1, eff. Nov. 1, 2010; Laws 2013, c. 44, § 1.

§10-640.2. Powers and responsibilities of Board.

A. The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board may:

1. Establish guidelines for the disbursement of funds received from any public or private source or otherwise made available to the Board for the purpose of supporting community initiatives that are consistent with the goals of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act and direct such other expenditures as may be necessary in the performance of its duties;

2. Establish other guidelines as necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board;

3. Receive funds from any public or private source;

4. Enter into contractual agreements to assist with the administration of the Board and to provide technical assistance to communities upon request;

5. Appoint subcommittees which may include persons who are not Board members. Such persons shall not be entitled to compensation but may be reimbursed, upon approval by the Director of the Department of Human Services, for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

6. The Board shall ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that the needs and values of all parents are respected and protected and that voluntary participation is the basis for delivering all school readiness programs. The Board shall act in ways which are sensitive to the diverse religious and other values of Oklahomans.

B. The responsibilities of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board shall be to:

1. Conduct a thorough assessment of existing public and private programs to determine their effectiveness and to maximize the efficient use of current state funds;

2. Implement a public engagement campaign and establish a structure to facilitate communication between communities;

3. Provide leadership at the state level to encourage communities to develop and improve school readiness opportunities at the local level to encourage and empower local communities;

4. Encourage public and private programs, services, and initiatives be brought together to provide coordinated, community-based, effective and cost-efficient programs;

5. Maximize the extent to which private sector funding is leveraged and federal, state, and local funds are coordinated with private funds;

6. Establish standards of accountability in school readiness programs and policy and recognize and promote the best practices; and

7. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than November 1 of each year. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. preparedness level of children entering kindergarten,
- b. status and results of the effort of the Board to engage the public regarding the care and education of children under the age of five (5) years and of the efforts of the Board to develop and promote private sector programs and voluntary parental involvement,
- c. detailed summary of community initiatives and programs funded in whole, or in part, by the Board,
- d. availability and cost of quality child care for children under five (5) years of age needing care outside their home,
- e. number, location, and status of quality prekindergarten programs in the state, and
- f. percentage of third-grade students reading at or above grade level.

C. The Department of Human Services shall be the lead public agency for general administration and monitoring of programs and activities related to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act.

D. Each of the following agencies shall make staff available to the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board for the purpose of providing professional consultation and staff support to assist in the implementation of this act:

1. State Department of Education;
2. State Department of Health;
3. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;
4. Department of Human Services; and
5. Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.

Added by Laws 2003, c. 121, § 4, emerg. eff. April 22, 2003.

§10-640.3. School readiness foundation.

A. There is hereby authorized the establishment of a not-for-profit school readiness foundation to raise funds and to assist in the implementation of the Oklahoma Partnership for

School Readiness Act and the achievement of the goals of the act.

B. Costs to underwrite implementation of the responsibilities of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board may be borne from revenues of the foundation.

C. The foundation created pursuant to this section may receive funds from any public or private source to carry out the purposes of this act, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants from any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or of this state for any purpose consistent with the provisions of this act.

D. Upon proper incorporation, the foundation shall secure tax-exempt status under the appropriate provision of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c).

E. Any member of the foundation who may have a financial interest in an action under consideration by the foundation shall abstain from voting on such matter.

Added by Laws 2003, c. 121, § 5, emerg. eff. April 22, 2003.

§10-700. Delegation of powers regarding child care and custody.

A. A parent or legal custodian of a child, by a properly executed power of attorney provided in Section 2 of this act, may delegate to another person, for a period not to exceed one (1) year, any of the powers regarding the care and custody of the child, except the power to consent to marriage or adoption of the child, the performance or inducement of an abortion on or for the child, or the termination of parental rights to the child. A delegation of powers under this section shall not deprive the parent or legal custodian of any parental or legal authority regarding the care and custody of the child.

B. The parent or legal custodian of the child shall have the authority to revoke or withdraw the power of attorney authorized by subsection A of this section at any time. If the delegation of authority lasts longer than one (1) year, the parent or legal custodian of the child shall execute a new power of attorney for each additional year that the delegation exists.

C. The attorney-in-fact shall exercise parental or legal authority on a continuous basis for not less than twenty-four (24) hours and without compensation for the intended duration of the power of attorney authorized by subsection A of this section and shall not be subject to the requirements of the Oklahoma Child Care Facilities Licensing Act.

D. Except as provided by Section 1-4-904 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, a parent or legal custodian who executes a power of attorney authorized by subsection A of this section shall not constitute abandonment, abuse or neglect as defined in Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes unless the

parent or legal custodian fails to make contact or execute a new power of attorney after the one-year time limit has elapsed.

E. Under a delegation of powers as authorized by subsection A of this section, the child or children subject to the power of attorney shall not be considered placed in foster care as defined in Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes and the parties shall not be subject to any of the requirements or licensing regulations for foster care.

Added by Laws 2014, c. 172, § 1, emerg. eff. April 28, 2014.