

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



2024



Skye McNiel

Reflecting on the second session of the 59th Legislature, Lawmakers pre-filed over 2,500 bills and joint resolutions prior to the start of session and there were over 2,400 carryover bills from last session that were alive for consideration as well. Gov. Stitt signed 445 of the over 500 bills sent to him and vetoed 63 bills.

The final state budget agreement on the FY 2024 was about \$12.47 billion which was 5.39% lower than FY 24's appropriation. Within that budget, CareerTech was given one of its largest increases in history- a \$31.7 million increase with most of that money going to workforce programs to address the waiting lists in our successful programs.

At the beginning of the 2024 legislative session, we tracked and monitored over 600 bills. These bills varied from CareerTech education policy, high school graduation requirements, common education policy, education funding, teacher pay raise, tax credits, licensing, Ad Valorem, retirement, state employee pay raise, guns, economic development and much more. Notably, House Bill 3278 by Representative Baker and Senator Pugh, which restructures Oklahoma high school graduation requirements. This bill will allow CTE programs to count towards graduation, removing obstacles for student participation in our programs.

Now that the 2024 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, most of the legislative news has surrounded elections. It was an interesting June primary as 3 legislative incumbents lost their re-election then, including the newly selected President Pro Tempore designee Greg McCortney from Ada, Senator Jessica Garvin, and Representative John Talley. There are 10 primary runoffs that will be held on August 27th with three incumbents, Senator Blake Cowboy Stephens, Representative Kevin Wallace, and Representative Dean Davis facing tough races to keep their seats. As a result of Senator McCortney losing in his primary, the Senate Republican Caucus met in mid- July and voted for Senator Lonnie Paxton from Blanchard to be the new Senate President Pro Tempore designee who will replace outgoing Pro Tem Greg Treat. Next session will be much different as the House will also have new leadership for the first time in 8 years, as Representative Kyle Hilbert has been elected Speaker of the House Designate to follow term-limited Speaker Charles McCall.

A list of all primary runoff and general elections is linked [here](#).

2024 INTERIM STUDIES

In addition to elections, we are also now to the season of interim studies. Of the 153 Interim Studies approved in the Senate and House, CareerTech is currently following or will be engaged in 43 interim studies that could affect our programs, students or operations. Committees will start holding hearings on those interim study topics beginning in August and those studies usually go through the end of November. Often our association, agency or members will be asked to testify or present at these studies and we will keep you updated as those meetings occur. You can find a list of all the studies we are tracking below.

HSP2001	Kendrix, Gerrid(R) Bergstrom, Micheal(R)	A study on the Administrative Rules Procedure Act.
	Bill History:	07-24-24 H Approved as Joint Study with the Senate
HSP2002	Olsen, Jim(R)	A study to search for the effectiveness of corporal punishment.
	Bill History:	07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Rules
HSP2003	Humphrey, Justin J.J.(R)	A study on prison conditions in the state.
	Bill History:	07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Criminal Justice & Corrections
HSP2005	Humphrey, Justin J.J.(R)	A study on various factors and outcomes related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the government response, state and federal.
	Bill History:	07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Health
HSP2010	Davis, Dean(R)	A study on the current landscape of the Teachers' Retirement System.
	Bill History:	07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Banking, Financial Svcs & Pensions
HSP2016	Hefner, Ellyn (F)(D) Kirt, Julia(D)	A study on transition and students with disabilities.
	Bill History:	07-24-24 H Approved as Joint Study with the Senate
HSP2018	Banning, Chris (F)(R)	A study on the potential impacts of moving school board elections to align with general elections.
	Bill History:	07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Elections & Ethics

HSP2019	West, Rick(R)	A study to determine what legislative remedies may be needed to bolster in-state retention and out-of-state recruitment of college students to be competitive with neighboring states.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education & Career Tech
HSP2026	Hardin, David(R)	A study on ad valorem and personal tax issues in the state.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Appropriations & Budget
HSP2028	Pae, Daniel(R)	A study on how to modernize the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2036	Conley, Sherrie(R)	A study on solutions to protect students from sexual abuse in schools.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2038	Miller, Nicole(R)	A study on school choice for military-connected students.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2040	Pae, Daniel(R)	A study on School-Based Medicaid Reimbursements.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2041	West, Tammy(R)	A study on allowing certain students to transfer into adjacent school districts with automatic approval.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2044	Kane, John (F)(R) Daniels, Julie(R)	A study on various processes of state agencies and ways to improve responsiveness to public comment and to statutory obligations.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Approved as Joint Study with the Senate
HSP2045	Kane, John (F)(R)	A study on means to allow homeschooled students to participate in public school extracurricular activities.
		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2052	Caldwell, Chad(R)	A study on the law surrounding pensions.

		<p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Banking, Financial Svcs & Pensions</p>
HSP2053	Caldwell, Chad(R)	<p>A study on the impact of cell phones and social media for minors.</p> <p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education</p>
HSP2056	Lepak, Mark(R)	<p>As study on the impact of pensions on recruitment and retention of public employees.</p> <p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Banking, Financial Svcs & Pensions</p>
HSP2059	Lepak, Mark(R)	<p>A study on the current status of public pensions and possible reforms to the system.</p> <p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Banking, Financial Svcs & Pensions</p>
HSP2061	Pfeiffer, John(R)	<p>A study on laws related to corruption and misconduct by public officials.</p> <p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House General Government</p>
HSP2063	Kane, John (F)(R)	<p>A study on transparency provisions related to public education to determine possible malicious influence by countries of concern.</p> <p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education & Career Tech</p>
HSP2066	Hill, Brian(R)	<p>A study on solutions to bullying of adolescents, in-person and online.</p> <p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education</p>
HSP2067	Hill, Brian(R)	<p>A study on economic innovation programs.</p> <p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Business & Commerce</p>
HSP2069	Lepak, Mark(R)	<p>A study on tax reform.</p> <p>Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Banking, Financial Svcs & Pensions</p>
HSP2073	Sterling, Danny(R)	<p>A study on the new accreditation rules tied into the Private School Accreditation System.</p>

		Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2076	Lowe, Jason(D)	A study on the youth justice system and rehabilitation. Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Judiciary - Criminal
HSP2080	Boles, Brad(R)	A study on the tax policies of OK and other states relating to the Wind Industry. Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Energy & Natural Resources
HSP2089	Alonso-Sandoval, Arturo (F)(D)	A study on artificial intelligence. Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Government Modernization & Technology
HSP2098	Waldron, John(D)	A study on the impact of inclusive education and parental participation. Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2100	Blancett, Meloyde(D)	A study on auditory issues and how it affects children learning to read. Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2104	Swope, Amanda (F)(D)	A study on wraparound services for at home learning. Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education
HSP2106	Boles, Brad(R)	A study on advancing electric generation and related economic development. Bill History: 07-24-24 H Referred to House Committee on House Energy & Natural Resources
SSP2008	Pugh, Adam(R)	A study on cell phones in schools. Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
SSP2009	Thompson, Kristen (F)(R)	A study on interlocal cooperative agreements. Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate General Government
SSP2015	Bergstrom, Micheal(R)	A study on the Administrative Procedures Act.

		<p>Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Administrative Rules</p>
SSP2019	Weaver, Darrell(R)	<p>A study on school insurance.</p> <p>Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education</p>
SSP2025	Hicks, Carri(D)	<p>A study on youth vaping.</p> <p>Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Health & Human Services</p>
SSP2027	Hicks, Carri(D)	<p>A study on the impacts of voucher programs in education.</p> <p>Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education</p>
SSP2030	Hicks, Carri(D)	<p>A study exploring CALT Certification and micro-credentialing for enhancing teacher competencies related to dyslexia.</p> <p>Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education</p>
SSP2032	Jech, Darcy(R)	<p>A study on social media regulations for children.</p> <p>Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Judiciary</p>
SSP2038	Deevers, Dusty (F)(R)	<p>A study on the 'harm' of expanding school-based healthcare.</p> <p>Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education</p>
SSP2039	Daniels, Julie(R)	<p>A study on how to ensure boards and commissions meet their statutory obligation to act in the public's best interests.</p> <p>Bill History: 06-27-24 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate General Government</p>

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The list of OkACTE priorities is set and outlined in our Legislative Agenda. The Legislative Agenda is established by our membership. OkACTE members have an opportunity to submit prospective legislative priorities to be reviewed and ranked at the Legislative & Appropriations Forum. Once ranked, the OkACTE Political Action Committee, which is comprised of two members from every division, votes on the approved agenda. Our goal is to have a pulse on every bill that could positively or negatively impact any area of our system. The final version includes the 2024 OkACTE Legislative Agenda and the ODCTE Appropriations Request.

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education, OkACTE, advocates for policy and legislation that best serves and protects the integrity of the Oklahoma Career and Technology system. Our legislative priorities reflect our commitment to fostering a skilled workforce and strengthening Oklahoma's economy.

Graduation Requirements

Support a single set of minimum Oklahoma high school curriculum requirements that include CTE courses and programs as allowable equivalents toward graduation.

- Support allowing certain CTE courses to count as graduation requirements. Examples include:
 - Upper-level Agricultural Education courses to count for a science or math credit.
 - Ag Power or Horticulture course to count for a fine arts credit.
 - Consumer Ed courses to count for the financial literacy requirement.
 - Approved business math courses to count for a math credit.
 - Family Consumer Sciences courses to count for a math or science credit.
 - Allow the pre-requisite class Introduction to Agriscience (previously Ag I) to be offered to 8th grade students.

Oppose any additional graduation requirements that would limit student access to CareerTech courses.

Support alternative pathways for individuals to demonstrate high school equivalency skills through a combination of academic, life skills, and work-based experience.

Career Development & Academic Success

Support legislation that ensures that Oklahoma's Promise is available to all eligible students including those who participate in high quality career and technical education programs at technology centers.

Workforce

Support legislation that reduces employer risk when partnering with educational entities to provide work-based learning opportunities for students.

Support legislation encouraging articulation of credits between CareerTech and higher ed.

Support legislation that removes citizenship requirements from licensing in various trades/careers.

Funding

Support full funding of the Oklahoma Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund.

Support increased funding to existing and new career tech programs.

Support legislation to adjust the state minimum salary schedule from a 25-year basis to a 40-year basis with a \$600-\$700 annual increase for years 26-40.

Continue to support and encourage increasing teacher pay to regional average or above.

Support increasing the 411 program teacher salary supplements.

Retirement

Support a cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) for all TRS retirees.

Support legislation that removes the salary cap on retired teachers who want to re-enter the classroom and still draw teacher retirement.

Ensure teachers' retirement remains a defined benefit plan.



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2024 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

In collaboration with ODCTE we secured historic funding to multiple areas of CTE.

HB 3234 | Rep. Lawson and Sen. Green

Authorizes CareerTech to outline eligibility requirements to allow persons to receive a high school equivalent credential based on work experience.

HB3276 | Rep. Baker and Sen. Coleman

Transfers the rulemaking authority regarding a certification system for teachers and instructors in technology center school districts from the Board of Education to the Board of Career and Technology Education.

HB 3278 | Rep. Baker and Sen. Pugh

Requires students to complete certain modified graduation requirements in 8th through 12th grade beginning in the 2025-26 school year. The modified requirements include four units of math, with one being Algebra I and another being either Algebra II or Geometry, and six pathway units that align with each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan. District boards of education must also approve three additional elective units of any subject. A postsecondary-approved full-time CareerTech program or locally approved course may satisfy the required physical science or remaining math units. The measure also requires the State Board of Career and Technology Education and State Regents for Higher Education to collaborate with SDE, adopt a joint plan for ensuring academic expectations, and submit the plan to the legislature. Additionally, CareerTech programs and certain AP computer science courses are no longer required to be approved by the State Board of Education for high school credit.

HB 2672 | Rep. Baker and Sen. Pugh

Allows schools to adopt new graduation requirements prior to school year 2025-26.

SB 991 | Sen Green and Rep. Hilbert

Authorizes the Department of Career and Technology Education to determine the grade levels to be offered agricultural education programs.

SB 1328 | Sen. Gollihare and Rep. VanCuren

Modifies eligibility for the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, also known as Oklahoma's Promise. The measure provides eligibility for students who have completed a core curriculum and seek admission to a technology center school.

- Bill restricting communications between associations and their members was defeated
- Bill to change the tax on oil and gas flow lines was defeated
- No bills passed reducing local property taxes
- No bills passed reducing cosmetology, HVAC or plumbing licensing
- No bills passed to dismantle the Cosmetology Board
- No bills passed changing school board election dates

LEGISLATIVE DEFEATS

HB 2320 and HB 1520 would have allowed retirees to rehired with less restriction. We were unsuccessful this year, but will be trying for passage again next year.

2024 LEGISLATIVE BILLS

**These bills are hyperlinked to view in entirety.*

HB 1425 | Vancuren, Mark(R); Rader, Dave(R)

Requires school districts to adopt policies excusing students to receive certain religious instruction.

HB 2141 | McDugle, Kevin(R); Bergstrom, Micheal(R)

Adjusts various provisions of the Cosmetology and Barbering Act, increasing fees for licensure, creating several new positions and specialties which are recognized under the Act.

HB 3158 | Roberts, Eric(R); Rader, Dave(R)

Establishes standards and regulations for tax-exempt schools of cosmetology and barbering and adjusts qualifications for cosmetology students as well as for related waivers to operate within our correctional facilities.

HB 3234 | Lawson, Mark(R); Green, Grant (F)(R)

Authorizes CareerTech to outline eligibility requirements to allow persons to receive a high school equivalent credential based on work experience.

HB 3252 | Osburn, Mike(R); Thompson, Kristen (F)(R)

Modifies and adjusts the mission statement and primary goals for the Dept. of Commerce; EMERGENCY.

HB 3276 | Baker, Rhonda(R); Coleman, Bill(R)

Transfers the rulemaking authority regarding a certification system for teachers and instructors in technology center school districts from the Board of Education to the Board of Career and Technology Education.

HB 3278 | Baker, Rhonda(R); Pugh, Adam(R)

Adjusts high school graduation requirements to provide flexibility for student individual career pathways; EMERGENCY.

HB 3597 | Hill, Brian(R); Paxton, Lonnie(R)

Removes certain responsibilities over the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development from the Dept. of Commerce and charges the Employment Security Commission with developing the Work-Based Learning Program; EMERGENCY.

HB 3780 | Duel, Collin (F)(R); Garvin, Jessica (F)(R)

Removes certain outdated language related to the Open Meetings Act and the COVID-19 pandemic.

HB 3958 | Conley, Sherrie(R); Pugh, Adam(R)

Prohibits school personnel engaging in electronic or digital communication with a student without including the guardian of that student and provides disciplinary procedures for violations; EMERGENCY.

HB 4073 | Wallace, Kevin(R); Weaver, Darrell(R)

Creates Alyssa's Law which requires school districts to implement a mobile panic alert system; EMERGENCY.

SB 991 | Green, Grant (F)(R); Hilbert, Kyle(R)

Authorizes the Dept. of Career and Technology Education to determine the grade levels that may be offered agricultural education programs; EMERGENCY.

SB 1302 | Rader, Dave(R); Moore, Anthony(R)

Adjusts qualifications for students to receive funds from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, removing certain income thresholds and opening up availability to children involved in DHS custody; EMERGENCY.

SB 1310 | McCortney, Greg(R); Sneed, Chris(R)

Transfers authority over state employee benefits plans from the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to the Health Care Authority; EMERGENCY.

SB 1328 | Gollihare, Todd (F)(R); Vancuren, Mark(R)

Adjusts the qualification requirements for Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program for students seeking admission to CareerTech schools; EMERGENCY.

SB 1447 | Thompson, Kristen (F)(R); Osburn, Mike(R)

Creates the Creating Oklahoma's Modern Plan for Economic Transformation and Effectiveness Act which establishes an Oklahoma Office of Economic Development, Growth and Expansion for business development; EMERGENCY.

SB 1522 | Pemberton, Dewayne(R) ; Tedford, Mark (F)(R)

Adjusts allowable expenditures from the Common School Building Equalization Fund to include insurance and transport and repeals changes to the Redbud School Grants Program funding structure; EMERGENCY.

SB 1559 | Pugh, Adam(R) ; Moore, Anthony(R)

Exempts colleges and universities under the authority of the State Regents for Higher Ed. from certain requirements related to property insurance and the Risk Management Administrator of OMES.

SB 1572 | Daniels, Julie(R); Sims, Lonnie(R)

Provides for certain certifications for student apprentices to licensed electrical contractors, details registration procedure, and supervision by the Construction Industries Board.