



STILLWATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STILLWATER BOARD OF EDUCATION

PREPARED BY: SPS Cabinet Members
COMMITTEE: Cabinet, Board Members: Gay Washington and Rachel Dillin
APPROVED BY: Tyler Bridges, Superintendent
DATE: August 12, 2025

AGENDA ITEM:

Receive SPS Policy and Consider Approval:

- 1) DO Suspension, Dismissal, Nonrenewal of Teachers
- 2) DABB Records Investigation
- 3) FEA Intra District Transfers
- 4) FEG Student Transfers for Children of Active Military Members
- 5) FNG Cell Phone Policy

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Motion to approve the new or revised policies as presented.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The district is in an ongoing process of updating policies and procedures in accordance with Oklahoma law and/or current practices. The Policy Review Committee met on July 22, 2025 to review policy revisions as recommended by administration. Details regarding these policy revisions are listed below.

DO Suspension, Dismissal, Nonrenewal of Teachers

Senate Bill 553 added a new statutory ground for the termination or dismissal of a career teacher. The new ground provides that “knowing and willful failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect” is a statutory reason for which a career teacher’s employment may be terminated or nonrenewed. The same language was added into statute as a mandatory reason to terminate or non-reemploy a probationary teacher. The language regarding probationary teachers does not need to be modified as neither Oklahoma law nor policy requires an exhaustive listing of the causes for which a probationary teacher may lose employment.

(Source: Trent J. Swanson)

DABB Records Investigation

Senate Bill 553 added a new requirement to Oklahoma law regarding criminal history background checks. Prior Oklahoma law allowed teachers who had worked for another school district as either a teacher or substitute teacher who had a criminal history background check done in the past five years to obtain a letter from a school district in which the teacher had been employed stating that they left in good standing. This

letter would then eliminate the need for a new criminal history background check. The legislation modified Oklahoma law to require that the letter provided by the school district state that the employee left in good standing and that the teacher was not the subject of any allegation of inappropriate behavior with a student. (Source: Trent J. Swanson)

FEA Intra District Transfers

House Bill 2259 modified Oklahoma law regarding student transfers. Language regarding intra-district transfers was modified to allow automatic continuation of the transfer beyond the current school year unless the district denies the continued transfer for disciplinary reasons or attendance issues as defined in the transfer statute. Provisional eligibility for military students must be afforded to students in intra-district transfers regardless of capacity.

(Source: Bo Gamble)

FEG Student Transfers for Children of Active Military Members

House Bill 2259 modified Oklahoma law regarding student transfers. The legislation modified military transfers by removing a requirement that Oklahoma be the home of record for military personnel. In addition, transfers for military students cannot be denied on the basis of the student needing an IEP, 504 plan, or qualifying for special education courses or services.

(Source: Bo Gamble)

FNG Personal Electronic Devices Policy

The law requires (Per Senate Bill 139 signed by Governor Stitt), for the 2025-2026 school year, all school districts to adopt a policy prohibiting student use of personal cell phones and other personal electronic devices while on the campus of a public school district during the school day. For the purposes of this law, the prohibition applies bell-to-bell -- defined as the first bell to signal the beginning of the instructional day and the final bell signaling the end of the instructional day. The policy must include disciplinary procedures for violations but does not require districts to create disciplinary processes separate from a district's existing disciplinary policy and procedures.

(Revisions of our current SPS policy now reflect the new requirements of state law)

(Source: Angela Rhoades)