

# 2016 OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE SCHOOL CHOICE REPORT CARD

## OVERVIEW

This report card evaluates how state legislators voted on school choice issues during the 2016 legislative session by tracking their votes on 15 key pieces of legislation dealing with the expansion of access to educational options for Oklahoma families and kids.

ChoiceMatters is a statewide program that focuses on giving parents information, resources, and support to help them navigate Oklahoma's pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education offerings.

## BILL SUMMARIES

### HOUSE BILLS

#### HOUSE BILL 2720

HB 2720 prohibits a conversion charter school from being converted back to a traditional public school during a school term. The proposed bill also makes clear the board of education of each school district has power over conversion charter schools. The bill stipulates that the governing board of a conversion charter school will not be considered an applicant or a sponsor. Before a local school board may convert a traditional school into a charter school they must demonstrate through documentation compliance with certain charter school application requirements and these documents will be subject to the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

*Last Action: The bill was signed by the Governor (4/11/2016).*

#### HOUSE BILL 2947

HB 2947 The bill amends the A-F Report Card Grading System by requiring reports to include student achievement results of private schools that directly or indirectly receive state funds allocated for the financial support of public schools.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on by the House floor deadline and does not advance.*

#### HOUSE BILL 2949

HB 2949 is a bill that establishes an education savings account (ESA) program for students beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. The bill establishes eligibility for the program and requires a signed agreement by the parent(s) of a student. The agreement includes provisions such as notifying the State Department of Education when: an eligible student withdraws from a public school to participate in the program; the student stops participating in the program; the student enrolls or reenrolls in a public school or graduates; and how funds deposited into an ESA can and cannot be spent.

The parent of an eligible student must submit a request to participate in the ESA program by December 1 of the school year during which an account is requested. The bill provides how the amount deposited into the ESA will be calculated and creates a new fund to cover the costs of administering ESAs. It stipulates a private school or educational service provider that receives funds from an ESA cannot share, refund, or rebate to the parent or student any of the funds from the account.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on by the House floor deadline and does not advance.*

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## HOUSE BILL 2968

HB 2968 states that students who reside in a school district where a charter school is located shall not be required to obtain a transfer to attend a charter school in the school district of residence. If capacity is insufficient to enroll all eligible students, the charter school shall select students through a lottery selection process. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school shall give enrollment preference to eligible students who reside within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located.

A charter school created for the purpose of providing partial or full language immersion instruction may limit some or all admissions to students with a certain level of proficiency in the language used for educational instruction. Language immersion instruction is education instruction and other activities provided at the school primarily in a language other than the English language.

*Last Action: Did not emerge from the House Education Committee (2/16/2016).*

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## HOUSE BILL 3067

HB 3067 is a bill to create the Oklahoma Education Savings Account Act to provide additional educational options to parents for the education of students in this state to make educational decisions for their children.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 609

SB 609 is a carry-over bill from 2015. The bill proposes to create Oklahoma Education Empowerment Scholarships to allow parents to use a portion of state funding to educate their child in a variety of approved ways including, but not limited to, private schooling, tutoring, online instruction, or concurrent enrollment.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 1037

SB 1037 would modify the population threshold for charter school sponsorship from 500,000 to 25,000.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 1262

SB1262 would direct the State Department of Education to establish a pilot program creating the Dual-Language Immersion Pilot Program Revolving Fund to provide grants to public schools and charter schools that establish dual-language immersion programs in Chinese, Spanish, French, or any other language approved by the State Department of Education's Board. A public school or charter school may be eligible to receive a grant under this section if the public school or charter school uses an instructional model that provides at least 50% of its instruction in English and 50% of its instruction in a language listed.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 1263

SB 1263 would direct the Office of the State Treasurer to administer the Oklahoma Education Empowerment Scholarship Act to provide an education empowerment scholarship savings card for qualified expenditures to support the education of qualified Oklahoma students. To enroll for an education empowerment scholarship savings card, the parent or legal guardian of a qualified student must sign a detailed agreement stating the purpose and use of the education empowerment scholarship savings card.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 1268

This legislation, relating to charter schools, would correct a scrivener's error in the Oklahoma Charter School Act.

*Last Action: The bill was signed by the Governor (4/11/2016).*

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## SENATE BILL 1280

This bill would create the Parental Choice Tax Credit Act allowing non-refundable credit against income tax liability for certain qualifying educational expenses. For tax years beginning January 1, 2017, a taxpayer shall be allowed a non-refundable credit for qualifying educational expenses incurred during the tax year on behalf of each child who is eligible to be enrolled in a public school in this state and qualifies as the individual's dependent for federal tax purposes; and does not attend a public school during the semester or other school year portion for which such qualified educational expenses were incurred.

The credit shall be equal to 80% of qualifying educational expenses incurred, provided taxpayers who are members of low-income households are allowed to claim the credit for up to 100% of such expenses.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 1311

An act requiring documentation to affirm a private school's ability to provide services to students with disabilities who are participating in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 1313

SB 1313 would create the Oklahoma Common Education Savings Account Act which directs the Office of the State Treasurer to administer the savings account for qualified expenditures to support the education of qualified students in this state. Qualified expenses include services from a public school district, including a charter school; extracurricular activities such as athletics, drama, music, student clubs, etc; textbooks; uniforms; tutoring; technology including computers, hardware and other devices; supplies including paper and pens; college entrance exam fees; college tuition and fees for concurrent enrollment; and technology center school fees and tuition for concurrent enrollment.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 1325

SB1325 would remove language prohibiting charter schools from offering curriculum for deaf or blind students. Further, the bill states a charter school shall comply with all federal and state laws relating to the education of children with disabilities in the same manner as a school district.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

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## SENATE BILL 1401

SB1401 would create the Oklahoma Education Empowerment Scholarship Act and provides definitions, enrollment terms, attendance requirements, withdrawal notices, removal from the program, qualifications, and minimum requirements for parents or legal guardians. The bill requires the Office of the State Treasurer to provide the Department of Education with the names of students participating in the program.

*Last Action: The bill was not voted on and does not advance.*

## HOUSE REPORT CARD

Representative	HB 2720	HB 2947	HB 2949	SB 1268	Percentage	Grade
Banz, Gary (R)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Bennett, John (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Biggs, Scott (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Billy, Lisa (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Brown, Mike (D)	Y			N	50%	F
Brumbaugh, David (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Caldwell, Chad (R)	Y	N	Y	Y	100%	A
Calvey, Kevin (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Cannaday, Ed (D)	Y	Y	N	Y	50%	F
Casey, Dennis (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Christian, Mike (R)	Y			Y	75%	C
Cleveland, Bobby (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Cockroft, Josh (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Condit, Donnie (D)	Y	Y	N	Y	50%	F
Coody, Ann (R)	Y	Y	N	Y	50%	F
Coody, Jeff (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Cooksey, Marian (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Denney, Lee (R)	Y		Y	Y	100%	A
Derby, David (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Dunlap, Travis (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Dunnington, Jason (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Echols, Jon (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Enns, John (R)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Faught, George (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Fisher, Dan (R)	EXCUSED	N	Y	Y	88%	B
Fourkiller, William (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Goodwin, Regina (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Grau, Randy (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Griffith, Claudia (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Hall, Elise (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Hardin, Tommy (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Henke, Katie (R)	Y	Y	N	Y	50%	F
Hickman, Jeffrey (R)			Y		100%	A
Hoskin, Chuck (D)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Inman, Scott (D)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Johnson, Dennis (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Jordan, John Paul (R)	Y	N	Y	Y	100%	A
Joyner, Charlie (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Kannady, Chris (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Kern, Sally (R)	N	N	Y	Y	75%	C
Kirby, Dan (R)	EXCUSED			Y	75%	C
Kouplén, Steve (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Leewright, James (R)	Y			Y	100%	A

Lepak, Mark (R)	Y			Y	75%	C
Lockhart, James (D)	Y			Y	50%	F
Loring, Ben (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Martin, Scott (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
McBride, Mark (R)	N			Y	50%	F
McCall, Charles (R)	EXCUSED			UNEXCUSED	50%	F
McCullough, Mark (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
McDaniel, Jeannie (D)	Y	Y	N	Y	50%	F
McDaniel, Randy (R)	N			Y	50%	F
McPeak, Jerry (D)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Murphey, Jason (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Montgomery, John (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Moore, Lewis (R)	EXCUSED			Y	75%	C
Morrisette, Richard (D)	EXCUSED			Y	75%	C
Mulready, Glen (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Munson, Cyndi (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Murdock, Casey (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Murphey, Jason (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Nelson, Jason (R)	N	N	Y	Y	75%	C
Newell, Tom (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Nollan, Jadine (R)	Y	Y	N	Y	50%	F
O'Donnell, Terry (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Ortega, Charles (R)	EXCUSED			Y	75%	C
Osborn, Leslie (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Ownbey, Pat (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Park, Scooter (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Perryman, David (D)	Y			N	50%	F
Peterson, Pam (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Pfeiffer, John (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Proctor, Eric (D)	Y			N	50%	F
Pruett, R. C. (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Renegar, Brian (D)	Y			N	50%	F
Ritze, Mike (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Roberts, Dustin (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Roberts, Sean (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Rogers, Michael (R)	Y	N	Y	Y	100%	A
Rousselot, Wade (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Russ, Todd (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Sanders, Mike (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Scott, Seneca (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Sears, Earl (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Shelton, Mike (D)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Sherrer, Ben (D)	Y			N	50%	F
Shoemake, Jerry (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Stone, Shane (D)	Y	Y	N	Y	50%	F
Strohm, Chuck (R)	N	N	Y	Y	75%	C

Tadlock, Johnny (D)	Y			N	50%	F
Thomsen, Todd (R)	Y	Y	N	Y	50%	F
Vaughan, Steve (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Virgin, Emily (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Walker, Ken (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Wallace, Kevin (R)	N			EXCUSED	25%	F
Watson, Weldon (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Wesselhoft, Paul (R)	N			Y	50%	F
Williams, Cory (D)	Y			N	50%	F
Wood, Justin (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Wright, Harold (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Young, George (D)	Y			Y	100%	A

## SENATE REPORT CARD

Senator	HB 2720	HB 2947	HB 2949	SB 1268	Percentage	Grade
Allen, Mark (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Anderson, Patrick (R)	EXCUSED			Y	75%	C
Barrington, Don (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Bass, Randy (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Bice, Stephanie (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Bingman, Brian (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Boggs, Larry (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Brecheen, Josh (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Brooks, Corey (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Brown, Bill (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Crain, Brian (R)	EXCUSED			Y	75%	C
Dahm, Nathan (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
David, Kim (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Dossett, J.J. (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Fields, Eddie (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Floyd, Kay (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Ford, John (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Fry, Jack (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Garrison, Earl (D)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Griffin, A J (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Halligan, Jim (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Holt, David (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Jech, Darcy (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Jolley, Clark (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Justice, Ron (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Loveless, Kyle (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Marlatt, Bryce (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Matthews, Kevin (D)	Y			Y	100%	A

Mazzei, Mike (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Newberry, Dan (R)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Paddack, Susan (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Pittman, Anastasia (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Quinn, Marty (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Schulz, Mike (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Sharp, Ron (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Shaw, Wayne (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Shortey, Ralph (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Silk, Joseph (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Simpson, Frank (R)	Y			EXCUSED	75%	C
Smalley, Jason (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Sparks, John (D)	EXCUSED			Y	75%	C
Standridge, Rob (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Stanislawski, Gary (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Sykes, Anthony (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Thompson, Roger (R)	Y			Y	100%	A
Treat, Greg (R)	EXCUSED			Y	75%	C
Wyrick, Charles (D)	Y			Y	100%	A
Yen, Ervin (R)	Y			Y	100%	A